

BKME
Tele-Banking
Now... get our banking services
over the phone!
CALL:
24371000

ARAB TIMES

**BELIEVE YOUR EYES
PROVE IT TO YOURSELF...
YOU NEED**
Konica
FILM

NO. 7790 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1990/RAJAB 15, 1410 AH 22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Amir in Oman for talks on Jewish influx

Joint economic projects and ways to boost trade will be discussed

MUSCAT, Feb 10, (Agencies): HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, arrived today for three days of consultations with Sultan Qaboos on efforts to curb Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and other issues.

The Oman News Agency said the Amir, accompanied by a delegation including the finance minister, was greeted at the airport by Qaboos as a 21-gun salute boomed out.

Official sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the issue of the expected flood of Soviet Jews to Israel in the next few years was one of the top priorities in the two leaders' talks.

Qaboos is the current chairman of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council which also includes Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.



HH the Amir leaving for Oman. HH the Crown Prince, cabinet ministers and other high officials bade him farewell.

Battle in East Beirut resumes

BEIRUT, Feb 10, (Agencies): Rival Christian forces duelled with howitzers and machine guns in Lebanon's Christian enclave today, violating a shaky ceasefire in a 12-day power struggle and leaving rotting corpses in street-infested streets.

A French envoy, meanwhile, said he was unable to work out a settlement to the intra-Christian conflict between the forces of Gen. Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia.

The Voice of Lebanon, a Christian radio station, reported a mutiny among Aoun's 19,000 troops as they and Geagea's militia appeared geared for another round of all-out fighting.

"All my efforts did not produce any result," said French humanitarian aid minister Bernard Kouchner, who has been in Beirut since Monday.

"I'll leave for France today... the Lebanese should do more to help resolve their problems," Kouchner said after talks with President Elias Hrawi and Premier Salim Hoss in West Beirut.

The two sides clashed during the night and early morning with machine guns in several districts of East Beirut. They also exchanged howitzer shells in the mountains northeast of the capital.

A police spokesman said three people were killed and four wounded in the shelling before it subsided into intermittent exchange around 10 am (0800 GMT).

The casualties raised the overall toll from the 12-day confrontation to 433 killed and 1,684 wounded in the bloodiest intra-Christian confrontation since the civil war broke out.

Shortly before dusk, Aoun's Radio Lebanon said Geagea's gunners were shelling the general's defence ministry in Yarm, east of Beirut.

Hundreds of civilians fled the Christian enclave to safe areas in West Beirut, south, east and north Lebanon.

The police spokesman said the situation in the Christian enclave "does not indicate that a ceasefire is going to hold."

Mandela free today

'Kashmiris must choose their own future'



A Kashmiri woman cries during a protest in Rawalpindi yesterday for a cousin she said was killed in the Indian crackdown. (Reuters wirephoto)

No compromise

It's war of freedom: Benazir

ISLAMABAD, Feb 10, (Agencies): Pakistan does not want war with India over the Muslim uprising in Indian-controlled Kashmir, but will never compromise on the rights of Kashmiris to choose their own future, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto vowed today.

"We do not want war and we do not want to create a war psychosis in the nation," she told a specially convened joint session of Parliament.

Benazir issued veiled threats to India and condemned New Delhi's crackdown on Muslim separatists.

Making her first public appearance since the birth of her second child on Jan 25, Benazir said opting for peace did not mean Pakistan would be intimidated or abandon its support for the rights of Kashmiris.

"We cannot compromise on the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in self-determination," she added.

A revolt by the majority Muslim population in India's Jammu and Kashmir state has plunged relations between traditional foes India and Pakistan to their lowest point since Benazir took office in December 1988.

Benazir's robust defence of the rights of Kashmiri "freedom-fighters" to campaign for their freedom from Indian oppression would likely infuriate New Delhi.

"All those who value human life and dignity must not be silent when blood stains the beautiful valley of Kashmir," Benazir, dressed in Pakistan's national colours of green and white, told Parliament.

She told the joint session of Parliament (Continued on Page 2)

Whites cry 'hang him'

Blacks jubilant; Tutu shouts 'hurrah'

CAPE TOWN, Feb 10, (Agencies): Nelson Mandela, the symbol of unyielding black resistance to apartheid, will go free tomorrow after more than 27 years in prison, President F.W. de Klerk announced today.

"Tomorrow will bring us to the end of a long chapter," De Klerk told a news conference.

He said he had conferred with Mandela last night and was convinced the black leader was "committed to a peaceful solution" to the racial conflict that has plagued South Africa for decades.

The release of the world's best-known political prisoner has long been viewed as the crucial step needed to end South Africa's political stalemate and clear the way for negotiations on power sharing between blacks and whites after decades of racial conflict.

"There can no longer be any doubt about the government's sincerity in seeking to create a just dispensation based on negotiations," De Klerk said.

"The eyes of the world are presently focused on all South Africans. All of us now have an opportunity and the responsibility to prove that we are capable of a peaceful process of creating a new South Africa."

De Klerk, who stunned South Africans on Feb 2 by lifting a 30-year ban on Mandela's African National Congress, said the 71-year-old black leader would be freed unconditionally at 3 pm tomorrow (1300 GMT) at the gates of Victor Verster prison farm outside Cape Town.

Hundreds of white extremists, some screaming "hang Mandela," protested today against government race reforms and called for a return to strict apartheid.

(Continued on Page 5)

The President also said the 3-1/2-year-old state of emergency would be lifted to a few weeks if no further unrest accompanies Mandela's release, and he pledged to negotiate the possible release of remaining political prisoners.

Mandela, in recent talks with the government, had demanded freedom for all political prisoners and an end to the emergency rules.

Under the remaining restrictions, police can still detain suspects for up to six months without charge, ban protests, and ban journalists or others from protests or areas of unrest.

Rebels take Massawa

NAIROBI, Feb 10, (Reuters): Rebels in Ethiopia's northern province Eritrea said they captured the strategic Red Sea port Massawa today after launching a major offensive two days ago.

The entire town is under the control of the EPLF, Yemane Gabre Meskel, a spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) told Reuters by telephone from London.

"We received the news about an hour ago, but have no more details for the time being," he added.

This is the first time in 29 years of civil war in which separatist rebels have claimed to capture Eritrea's main port.

The lightning offensive by the EPLF along a 200 km (120 miles) front stretching from Keren in the central highlands of Eritrea to the coast followed a nine-month lull in fighting between Ethiopia's Soviet-backed government and the secessionist EPLF.

Ethiopian officials in Nairobi admitted the rebel offensive, which began on Thursday, had taken the government by surprise.

Control of Massawa would enable the EPLF to cut off the last open supply line to the 400,000 inhabitants in the Eritrean provincial capital Asmara, Ethiopia's largest city after Addis Ababa.

Superpowers to sign chem accord

MOSCOW, Feb 10, (Reuters): The United States and the Soviet Union said today they intended to sign an agreement at a June summit to destroy most of their chemical weapons.

"The sides will work out a bilateral agreement on reciprocal obligations... including inter alia the destruction of the bulk of their CW (chemical weapon) stocks to equal low levels," the two countries said in a joint statement.

"They will proceed with the objective of completing and signing such an agreement at the June 1990 summit meeting." (See Page 7)

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be slightly below normal with moderate north-westerly wind.
State of sea: Moderate
High water: 12.00 am, 2.00 pm
Low water: 8.00 am, 7.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.31 am
Sunset: 5.34 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 18°C 64°F
Ahmad: 17°C 63°F
Falka: 17°C 63°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 9°C 48°F
Ahmad: 10°C 50°F
Falka: 8°C 46°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 17°C 63°F
Ahmad: 16°C 61°F
Falka: 16°C 61°F
Minimum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 7°C 45°F
Ahmad: 6°C 43°F
Falka: 6°C 43°F

Sniper fire kills child in Karachi

KARACHI, Feb 10, (Reuters): A sniper shot dead a four-year-old boy in Pakistan's largest city, Karachi, today taking the death toll to four days of violence to 68, doctors said.

Palace attacker killed

Mubarak astonished

CAIRO, Feb 10, (Agencies): President Mubarak telephoned condolences today to the father of a teenager fatally shot by guards after deliberately crashing his car into the gate of a presidential palace.

Your date with the
10th Gulf Football Championship Quiz Competition

First Prize **Toyota Corolla** and many other prizes

بيتزا ايطاليا
PIZZA ITALIA
in co-operation with
السياسة
ARAB TIMES

TOYOTA COROLLA 1.3 LITRE ENGINE

PRESENTED BY:
Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est.

Details inside page

Opposition plans day of protest over Karachi shootings

KARACHI, Feb 10, (AP): Pakistan's hostile opposition yesterday called for a national day of protest over this week's shooting deaths in the southern port city of Karachi.

Most of Karachi's 8 million people remained under army control yesterday after four days of bloody clashes between supporters of the ruling Pakistan People's Party and the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, representing Muslim immigrants to Pakistan following independence in 1947.

The government briefly relaxed a 24-hour

curfew and police officials, who declined identification, said it passed without incident.

As many as 60 people have died since Monday in violent clashes between the police and sharpshooters belonging to rival political parties.

Wednesday was the bloodiest day, when an MQM call for a supposedly peaceful strike turned violent. Forty-one people were killed when sharpshooters on rooftops clashed with police.

In a prepared release Pakistan's combined opposition said the day of protest set for Feb 17 was "against the unprecedented barbaric action planned and monitored by the ruling party."

Last year some of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's more formidable opponents formed an alliance called the combined opposition parties, representing right-wing, centrist and religious parties. A handful of independent National Assembly members also belong to the alliance.

Last October the MQM added its name to the combined opposition.

The Indian immigrant party, whose support is limited in Pakistan's southern province of Sindh, went from being a key ally of Benazir's to her arch-enemy.

The MQM, which virtually controls the province's urban centres of Karachi and Hyderabad, abandoned a fragile alliance with Benazir's party, which dominates the Sindh assembly.

In November Benazir's party narrowly survived a no-confidence vote after the MQM took its critical 14 National Assembly seats over to the opposition's camp.

Benazir's opposition has blamed her party for the recent wave of violence in Karachi.

"(A) government which would massacre its own people has no right to rule the country even for one single day," said the opposition's release.

The ruling party blamed the MQM.

The MQM has asked President Ghulam

Ishaq Khan to intervene and invoke a state of emergency which could dissolve the Sindh assembly.

Some political observers, who asked not to be identified, speculated that the opposition strategy is to keep the pressure on Benazir's government and eventually force the President to question her ability to govern.

During 11 years of military rule Pakistan's President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq amended the constitution to give the President sweeping powers.

Britain on full security alert

Rushdie plea for dialogue

LONDON, Feb 10, (Agencies): Britain imposed a full security alert in response to Tehran yesterday again ordering the death of Salman Rushdie, and an intermediary said the author of "The Satanic Verses" had pleaded from his hideout for a dialogue with the country's Muslims.

Officials said military bases and airports were ordered on full alert and security tightened around the US embassy in London in line with a US State Department warning of a "high level of activity" by the Hezbollah Islamic extremists group.

Washington on Thursday declared its concern "that terrorists may be planning an operation against US interests in Western Europe" to mark the anniversary of the 1979 dissolution of the government of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

India sees no need for war

Explosions in Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

National Assembly and Senate that Pakistan wanted a peaceful settlement, but declared Pakistan ready and able to defend itself against any threat.

"We know how to defend our freedom and independence," she said. "We have the will and courage, and we have the capability to defend our motherland."

"This revolution has not come from outside. It has come from the heart of the people," she said. "It is a war of freedom."

She accused India of blaming Pakistan "in an attempt to externalise and divert the issue."

She stressed the nation's support for a 1949 United Nations resolution "that called for a plebiscite in the disputed mountain region to allow Kashmiris to decide whether they want to be ruled by India or Pakistan."

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan opened the joint session with a resolution calling on India to stop "barbaric attempts to suppress the demand of the people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir for self-determination."

Pakistan has sent emissaries abroad to build support and the resolution urged the government to intensify these efforts.

Before the debate, Yaqub Khan and the head of military intelligence, retired Lieutenant-General Shamur Rehman Kallue, briefed members of Parliament in secret session.

One opposition source said Kallue raised fears India could be involved in subversion within Pakistan.

National Assembly opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi accused the government of being lukewarm about Kashmir in the past, and asked it to canvass support at every world forum.

"But for God's sake don't be complacent. Move fast. India has already

taken a lead in diplomatic efforts," he said.

Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, leader of the right-wing Jamaat-i-Islami party, urged Islamabad to make nuclear weapons to face the threat of war from India.

Meanwhile, India's foreign minister said today he believed a third war with Pakistan over Kashmir could be averted.

"I don't think there's a need for war," External Affairs Minister Inder Gujral told reporters of a three-week-old crisis in relations with neighbouring Pakistan.

Gujral, who has mounted a diplomatic offensive against Pakistan, said Delhi was winning international support for its insistence that it should deal with Kashmir's problems without foreign intervention.

Speaking in Chandigarh, 250 km (150 miles) north of Delhi, he said: "We are not hawkish. We never invite war but if we are forced to have war we will defend ourselves."

Gujral urged his audience, members of the international Rotary movement due to visit Karachi next month, to go "as messengers of peace... as a bridge to clear misunderstandings."

Most Pakistanis did not want another war, he said.

Meanwhile, a series of bomb blasts rocked Kashmir's Himalayan valley today, the eve of an emotive anniversary for Muslim militants battling Indian rule.

Police sources and witnesses reported 17 bombings, most of them in Srinagar, summer capital of the state where militants are demanding independence or secession to neighbouring Pakistan.

Militants urged Kashmiris to observe a "black day" on Sunday — an order which usually means staying indoors without lights.

During morning prayers in Tehran yesterday, Iran's spiritual leader Ali Khamenei repeated the late Ayatollah Khomeini's call Feb 14, 1989 for all Muslims to try to kill Rushdie for writing "The Satanic Verses," which fundamentalist Muslims considered insulting.

"Mercenaries who try by means of cultural and propaganda contrivances such as writing the blasphemous book 'The Satanic Verses' are trying to weaken Islam," Tehran radio quoted Khamenei as saying.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher denounced Iran's reaffirmation of its death sentence on Rushdie, and a friend of the novelist said he thought Rushdie was prepared for dialogue with Muslim leaders if they rejected the threat.

A statement from Mrs Thatcher's office said she condemned the renewal of the threat and believed it was "much to be regretted."

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd later added: "It's very difficult to imagine us having reasonable relationships with Iran, which I would like us to have, so long as this absurd sentence on a British citizen remains."

There was no immediate comment from Rushdie, who has been in hiding for nearly a year.

But Blake Morrison, literary editor of the Independent on Sunday and a friend of Rushdie, spoke with the author on Friday and said Rushdie was prepared to try to find a compromise if Islamic leaders in Britain distance themselves from the death sentence.

Said Morrison: "I think Rushdie will be prepared to respond some sort of dialogue with those in the community."

"But in order for that to happen, they must clearly dissociate themselves from the fatwa (death sentence) and they must reassure everybody that no violence against Rushdie... or threat against his life (is carried out)" Morrison told Channel 4 TV news.

Earlier, Morrison said: "This is disappointing news in a week when he (Rushdie) has made a real effort to reopen the debate in a more peaceful way."

But many British Muslims endorse Tehran's death order, including Aam Siddiqui, director of the London-based Muslim Institute.

"There is no threat. There is a sentence of death, which will be executed by the political and judicial authorities of Islam, and not by private citizens," he said. "I am sure it would have horrified people if Hitler had been tackled when he wrote Mein Kampf."

"We still condemn (the death sentence) in the strongest terms," said Boh Gregory, spokesman for Viking Penguin, Rushdie's publishers. "We are appalled. I just think it is very bad. But it is very nearly 'what's new?' this doesn't change anything."

As the anniversary of the Khomeini's death order approached, Rushdie issued pleas from his hiding for tolerance from Muslims, while maintaining he has done nothing wrong.



Checking at a Karachi road block

Armed Pakistani soldiers check a car at a road block before allowing it to pass in curfew-bound areas in Karachi. At least 87 people were killed in massive anti-government protests on Feb 7. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bofors probes to go to Sweden

STOCKHOLM, Feb 10, (UPI): An Indian government delegation was to travel to Sweden from Switzerland on Monday to press for Swedish assistance in obtaining evidence in the Bofors arms procurement affair, media reports said here today.

The Indian delegation has asked for talks next week with Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, chief prosecutor Lars Ringberg, the Swedish National Bank and representatives of Swedish arms manufacturer Bofors, daily Dagens Nyheter reported.

The report said the Indian group included Bharu Lal, personal adviser to India's prime minister as well as chief prosecutor Arun Jaitley and representatives of India's Central Bureau of Investigation.

The group was to come to Sweden from Switzerland where it has held talks with Swiss justice ministry officials on ways to obtain details of bank accounts involved in an alleged return commission affair involving the procurement of artillery guns for the Indian army.

Indian claims that 14 government officials received payments totaling some \$40 million for awarding contracts worth \$1.3 billion to Bofors, the big Swedish arms manufacturer.

The 1981 contract for 400 artillery pieces was the largest such contract ever signed by India.

On Jan 26, Switzerland accepted an Indian request to require four banks in Zurich and Geneva to freeze all and any deposits held by officials named by the Indian government.

Dagens Nyheter said six accounts had then been frozen, of which five allegedly still contained funds from Bofors.

The Swiss government last week accepted a formal Indian request for legal assistance in obtaining banking information regarding the various accounts.

But strict bank secrecy laws in Switzerland make disclosures difficult and the process can often last years.

The Indian government has also asked for legal aid from the Swedish government, which has not yet agreed to the request.

A Swedish investigation into the bribery affair was closed in early 1988 for lack of evidence.

UK envoy denies drug abuse: The British high commissioner (ambassador) to Sri Lanka yesterday denied recent allegation that he was giving patronage to drug peddlars and said he was not condoning drug abuse.

In a statement issued in Colombo, the High Commissioner, David Gladstone said, "I have noted with sadness the serious allegations made under the cloak of parliamentary privilege by Piyasiri on Feb 7."

He added "I would not wish anyone to be misled thereby into thinking that I have in any way condoned drug abuse."

On Wednesday, Handunetti R. Piyasiri, a ruling United National Party (UNP) lawmaker told parliament the government's anti-narcotics drive was facing "difficulties" due to the patronage extended by some diplomats to drug peddlars. (Kuna)

Nepali parties call general strike: Nepal's banned political parties have called a general strike for Feb 19 in their campaign for multi-party democracy in the Himalayan kingdom.

The Nepali Congress and the left front alliance of Communist Parties said in a joint statement yesterday they would launch their campaign on Feb 18 by hoisting party flags in defiance of a 30-year-old ban on the political parties.

Protests would continue with Feb 19 strike, a series of demonstrations and another strike on March 2. Political parties were banned by Nepal's king, regarded by many Nepalis as a demi-god. (Reuters)

Volcano kills 5 in Java: Mount Kelud in East Java erupted yesterday killing at least five people and seriously injuring 19 others, police officials said.

The 5,679-foot (1,731-m) volcano erupted at about 2:00 pm Saturday sending sand and ash into villages in the surrounding areas.

"At the moment, or more than nine hours after the eruption, sand and ash were still pouring over Blitar and Kediri cities," Sergeant Rato told United Press International, adding that as 3,300 villagers were evacuated to safer places. (UPI)



Man and the dog

A dog and its owner both curl up in individual booths while taking a break during the annual Crufts Dog Show in London. The event which attracts thousands of people and dogs to their 28 show rings, also boasts side attractions such as doggy antiques and vegetarian food for canines. (Reuters wirephoto)

Church in row on homosexuality: Extracts from a leaked Church of England document published yesterday urge the church to take a more liberal view of homosexuality, upsetting conservatives.

The confidential report, prepared for a panel of bishops in 1988 and yet to be endorsed by the church, urges recognition of homosexual couples and says homosexuals should be tolerated.

Church of England leader, the Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, who is in Pakistan and Bangladesh, said in a statement the report was not "an accepted policy document."

But a senior conservative Member of Parliament, Harry Greenway, described the report as a "suicide note" for the church and said Runcie's response was unsatisfactory. (Reuters)

Moscow sending Cuba MiG jets: Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze confirmed yesterday that the Soviet Union was shipping MiG-29 fighters to Cuba but denied that Havana posed a threat to the United States or any other country in the region.

"We are supplying these aircraft to Cuba. Of course the US does not welcome it, but we have a legitimate right to do so," Shevardnadze told a news conference devoted to Friday's talks with visiting US Secretary of State James Baker.

"Cuba poses no threat or danger to the United States or any other country in the region, and that includes the MiG-29s," he said. (Reuters)

W. Germany arrests spy suspects: West German authorities arrested four people suspected of delivering US-made computers that could have military use to the Soviet KGB, the Federal Prosecutor's Office said on Friday.

The four detainees are suspected of delivering high-tech Western products to the Soviets since mid-1988, the office said in a statement.

The four allegedly acquired a computer made by the US company Digital Equipment that can be used for military purposes, and delivered it to the KGB in East Germany, the statement said. (AP)

Moscow to pull out troops: The chief negotiators at talks on withdrawing Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia said on Friday that Moscow will begin the pullout this month, even before an agreement is signed.

Soviet Deputy Minister Ivan Aboimov and his Czechoslovak counterpart, Evzen Vasek, told the Czechoslovak state news agency CTK, however, that no final date for completing the pullout had been set. They met in Moscow for a second round of talks on the issue. (AP)

Kinsinger warns West: Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger warned the West yesterday not to become infatuated with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and base its policies on his political survival.

"Human beings are mortal. Soviet politics are extremely complicated and arcane," he told a seminar in Lisbon. "We should not talk ourselves into the frame of mind that only one leader can carry out the present set of policies."

"We in the West should understand the necessities and not become infatuated by one personality... for any policy to be based upon one man is really an abdication of foreign policy." (Reuters)

Reagan says Gorbachev is best hope: Former president Ronald Reagan said on Friday that he is optimistic about the state of world affairs and praised Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as the Soviet Union's "best and only hope."

"I am more optimistic than ever in my life about world peace and democracy," Reagan told more than 1,000 people in a speech. "These are the days of triumph and freedom."

Reagan, 79, said the only trouble spot is the Middle East.

Manila rules out pardon for Honasan

MANILA, Feb 10, (UPI): Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos today ruled out amnesty for ex-army Col. Gregorio Honasan and other leaders of the bloody Dec 1-7 coup attempt, but said the military was willing to consider clemency for lower-ranking mutineers if they surrender.

Ramos said during a news conference the government will be firm in dealing with the coup leaders and added amnesty for the mutineers will be granted on a "case-to-case" basis.

He said Honasan, alleged leader of the uprising that nearly toppled President Corason Aquino, and other top rebel officers have been charged in are facing investigation and are not eligible for amnesty.

Soldiers who followed orders based on false information and whose participation in the rebellion was light are qualified for the amnesty programme and will be returned to their posts, Ramos said.

"Insofar as military rebels are concerned, the Department of National Defence and the Armed Forces of the Philippines pursuant to presidential policy shall continue to be very firm recognising that the threat from coup plotters, coup leaders and coup participants is a very, very dangerous one," Ramos said.

He said some military rebels have signified their intention to surrender under the amnesty programme.

Aquino issued an executive order in December 1986 offering amnesty to the communist New Peoples Army and the Muslim separatist Muna National Liberation Front. The order has been expanded to include mutineers involved in coup attempts.

At least 119 people were killed and 600 wounded in the December uprising — the sixth and most serious in Aquino's nearly four years in power.

Six coup leaders of a military list of 15 "most wanted" leaders of the December uprising have already been captured this year, but the key officers, including Honasan, are still at large and have threatened to mount another coup.

One man was killed and more than 18,500 people made homeless on a central Philippine island when a strong earthquake hit the area, a spokesman for the government's disaster centre said today.

Marin Gatchalian, spokesman for the office of civil defence, said the island of Bohol was hardest hit because it was near the epicenter of the earthquake Thursday, which measured a preliminary 6 on the Richter scale.

Sketchy reports said one man died in the town of Valencia on Bohol, about 655 km (410 miles) southeast of Manila because of the earthquake, but did not explain the cause of his death, Gatchalian said.

The United States delivered 191 troop carriers along with anti-tank weapons, rifles, machine-guns and night vision equipment to the Philippine military to aid in its battle against leftist insurgents, officials said today.

Col. Edgardo Camina, military ordinance chief, said the shipment was part of the foreign military sales credit that Washington agreed to provide under an arrangement covering its key military bases in the Philippines.

Camina said the shipment includes 4,000 M-1 Garand rifles, 6,000 carbines, 180 recoilless rifles and 661 M-60 machine guns and infra-red goggles for Sikorsky helicopter pilots and anti-terrorist squads.

Rajiv faces flood of desertions as Congress still reels under loss in November elections

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 10: Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party, still reeling under the impact of the loss in last November elections, today suffered another blow when a senior leader of its Maharashtra unit, Dr Rafiq Zakaria, quit and joined the Janata Dal.

Dr Zakaria, an Islamic scholar of international repute, said he had decided to resign from the Congress because it was in disarray everywhere because of the "leadership of Rajiv Gandhi."

"Many of us, who have spent all our lives in the Congress, thought that after the debacle that the party suffered in the Lok Sabha elections, there will be a change in its functioning. But it has become worse. Like the Bourbons, Rajiv has learnt nothing and forgotten nothing. He has become more obsessed with his own importance and demands greater servility than ever before," Zakaria said.

According to him, the result was the party was disintegrating and there was no hope for its survival now. "Rajiv by his whims and caprices has not only lost the government but by exploiting its goodwill destroyed the very fibre of more than a hundred-

year old party," he said.

Zakaria said Prime Minister V.P. Singh, a former defence minister in Rajiv's cabinet, had seen the writing on the wall much earlier. "We should have heeded his warning then," he said.

Zakaria said there was no one better equipped than Singh to strengthen India's secular base and to restore to its democracy the moral character that had become completely eroded.

Zakaria was the senior-most vice-president of the Maharashtra unit of the Congress and served as minister in the state for some time. He was also far

some time the deputy leader of the party in Parliament. He travelled to several countries as special envoy of late prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Zakaria had meetings with Singh and Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed yesterday.

His resignation from the Congress comes on the heels of similar decisions by some other party leaders. Those who have quit in recent days include former Bihar chief minister Abdul Ghafur, late prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's son Sunil Shastri, former Maharashtra chief minister Babarao Bhosle and former Maharashtra deputy chief minister N.K. Tirpude.

DINE WITH
YOUR
VALENTINE



Valentine's Day
At Al Jawahar Night Club
14th February 1990
8:00 pm to 12 pm

KD 6.000
Per Person

Special
Buffet Dinner

Live Entertainment

Complimentary Bottle of Bulmagne

Red Rose for Ladies

Free Raffle Entry

Book Your Table in Advance

REMEMBER THE NUMBER
5624111

Organised by:
Meeleah Beach Hotel

SPONSORED BY:
Beldout Center

Handwritten signature or text in Arabic script.

Galileo spacecraft swoops past Venus

PASADENA, California, Feb 10, (AP) — The Galileo spacecraft swooped past Venus early today, and the cloud-shrouded planet acted as a gravity slingshot to help hurl the craft toward its 1995 rendezvous with Jupiter.

Engineers at the US space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory received a radio signal confirming that the 2.3-tonne spacecraft made its closest approach to Venus at 0559 GMT, cruising 10,028 miles (16,138 kilometres) above the planet's hellishly hot surface.

"We have just flown through our closest approach point to Venus," said Bill O'Neill, science and mission design manager. "The greatest challenge of getting Galileo to Jupiter has been met."

Four hours before the close encounter, radio signals received on Earth confirmed the spacecraft computer ordered Galileo's infrared light sensor to start observing Venus. The instrument was looking for the glow of the hot lower atmosphere backlit by cooler clouds overhead, O'Neill said.

That started an eight-hour period of intensive photography and measurements, including a photographic search for lightning. Earlier yesterday, Galileo studied dust particles and magnetic fields in space, and measured Venusian atmospheric temperatures.

The Venus encounter is our first major milestone in the mission," said Galileo project scientist Torrence Johnson. "After the encounter, we have gained enough energy out of this celestial billiard shot to get the energy we need to make it all the way to Jupiter."



Bulging Fergie

The Duchess of York, who is expecting a second child in the upcoming weeks, waves goodbye after watching the tennist of British Service International's Ski Championships in Megeve, France. (Reuters wirephoto)



This is the way you gotta do it

Sylvester Stallone (right) demonstrates to heavyweight champion Tommy Morrison how he wants him to move during the filming of the

main fight scene in Rocky V at Philadelphia's civic centre Feb 9. (Reuters wirephoto)

Anti-seizure drug may lower IQs

Be careful, physicians told

BOSTON, Feb 10 (UPI) — Young children given a common barbiturate to control fever-induced seizures generally score lower than their peers on intelligence tests, a study concluded.

The drug phenobarbital apparently affects a child's ability to perform well on such tests, and this effect may continue even after the drug is no longer used, researchers reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The finding, combined with questions about phenobarbital's effectiveness, led the study's authors to conclude that the drug's disadvantages generally outweighed its benefits.

"We're saying that physicians need to be very, very careful about prescribing it. This doesn't mean that there are not some children who can benefit from phenobarbital. But we need to look hard for alternatives," said Dr Deborah Hirtz of the national institute of neurological disorders and stroke in Bethesda, Maryland, just outside Washington.

Phenobarbital, which can be used as a hypnotic and a sedative, is by far the most common treatment for early childhood seizures that are triggered by high fevers, Hirtz said. Such fevers may affect as many as 4 per cent of babies and toddlers in the United States, she said.

The study compared 108 children in the Seattle area who received phenobarbital daily with 109 children of similar age and background who were not given the drug.

Despite the drug's widespread use, phenobarbital seemed to have little positive effect. There was no significant decrease in seizures among children who received daily doses of phenobarbital, the researchers found.

The children who received daily doses of the drug did, however, have lower intelligence quotients on average than other seizure-prone children who did not receive medication, the researchers found.

The children who received daily doses of the drug did, however, have lower intelligence quotients on average than other seizure-prone children who did not receive medication, the researchers found.

After two years, the children who took the drug had an average IQ of 95.5, more than eight points lower than the children in the non-drug group, the researchers found.

Six months later, after the amount of phenobarbital given the children had been lowered and finally discontinued, the drug group had an average IQ slightly more than five points lower than their counterparts, the researchers found.

The study did not try to explain why phenobarbital might affect IQ. But Hirtz noted previous research involving adults given the drug showed a decline in their performances on tests of concentration and short-term memory.



A sensation

A granddaughter of former US President Dwight Eisenhower married a top Soviet space scientist Friday in a ceremony at the US ambassador's residence in Moscow.

Susan Eisenhower, 38, married Roald Sagdeev, the 57-year-old former head of the space research institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Sagdeev also is a member of the Congress of People's Deputies, the Soviet Parliament.

Also, the Soviet news agency, described the celebrity wedding as "a sensation." Those who attended the ceremony, which was closed to the media, said the guests included Elena Bonner, widow of Soviet human rights champion Andrei D. Sakharov, and many Soviet parliamentarians.

After the ceremony, the bride, dressed in a white suit with gold trim, and the groom, in a double-breasted blue suit, cut into a three-tier wedding cake.

Sagdeev, a physicist, was a close associate of Sakharov and is considered a political reformer. He is well-known in the Soviet Union, and before reforms took hold in the country, his institute had been considered top secret.

The couple first met at the annual Soviet-American Chautauque conference in the United States in 1987 and saw each other afterwards at several international conferences.

Tass quoted the couple as saying they had not expected quick approval from authorities for their wedding plans but, that the approval in fact came soon, "a fresh indication that times are changing for the better."

The couple previously have said they will live in both countries. (Reuters wirephoto)

Boxer Ali's father dead

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky, Feb 10, (Agencies) — Cassius Marcellus Clay Sr., father of former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali, died at the age of 77.

Ali was at his home in Berrien Springs, Michigan, when he learned of his father's death, and flew to Louisville, according to Gene Kilroy, a longtime friend of the former champion and part of Ali's entourage when he fought.

"This is the saddest moment of my life," Kilroy said Ali told him. "My father was my friend, my first trainer in boxing. He was my pal."

Kilroy said Ali also told him "there isn't a day in my life that I won't be thinking of him."

"I know that's true," Kilroy said from his home in Las Vegas. "I remember how excited he'd get when his parents arrived for one of his fights."

Kilroy recalled that Clay, who was an artist, often painted when he visited his son's training camp in Deer Lake, Pennsylvania.

Clay, a commercial artist, slumped over the wheel of his car as he prepared to go home from his office in an apparent coronary seizure.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Indianapolis, Indiana: Singers Willie Nelson, John Cougar Mellencamp and Neil Young are preparing for the fourth Farm Aid Concert, scheduled for April in Indianapolis.

Mellencamp, a native of Seymour in southern Indiana, said that raising money is important but so is creating the awareness of "how important the family farmer is to us all."

Nelson said Farm Aid IV will focus on the ability of farmers to provide safe food at reasonable prices.

Nelson and Mellencamp have raised more than \$12 million for the American farmers in three previous concerts.

The first farm aid concert was held in Illinois in 1985. (AP)

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Black Russian caviar is not kosher, but the Technion Institute in Haifa says it has developed a caviar substitute that is.

The tasty Russian variety is off limits to observant Jews because it is made from sturgeon fish, which do not have scales. Kosher dietary rules ban the eating of fish without scales.

The new product, which took three years to develop, is made from a kosher fish, Technion said in a statement.

It also will sell at a bargain price. Technion said. Russian caviar sells for about \$48 an ounce on world markets, and the kosher substitute will go for about \$2 it said.

The new product is reported to look and taste like the real thing. Martin McDonald, a chef at the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv who has tested the new caviar, proclaimed it "as close to the real thing as you can get." (AP)

LAUSANNE, Switzerland: A prisoner nearing the end of a five-year jail term for theft escaped after a prison official allowed him to visit a prostitute, authorities said Wednesday.

The unidentified Yugoslav national had been given an eight-

Cancer Davis in hospital

LOS ANGELES, Feb 10, (Reuters) — Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr was treated last night for a tooth infection possibly caused by radiation, said hospital officials.

Davis, 64, was in Cedars Sinai Hospital, being treated for a tooth infection possibly caused by radiation, when he had to undergo a second series of treatment for cancer, the officials said.

Davis last month completed eight weeks of radiation treatment because of throat cancer and doctors said then the cancer was in remission.

Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson, Bob Hope and other stars paid tribute to Davis in a television special celebrating Davis' 60 years in show business that was shown in the United States last Sunday.

Davis is one of the world's highest paid entertainers and had just completed a US concert tour with Sinatra, a friend from when they were members of the Hollywood "rat pack," and Liza Minnelli.

hour permit to visit this town bordering Lake Geneva on Monday to do some shopping in preparation for his planned release April 12.

An accompanying prison official allowed him to pay two visits to a prostitute. After the second visit, the prisoner ordered a taxi and fled, authorities said. (AP)

KANSAS CITY, Missouri: A kindergarten pupil who fell asleep on the way home from school was hospitalized with frostbite after spending nearly two nights in a school bus waiting for help, authorities said.

Angela Terrell was in fair condition Sunday night at children's Mercy Hospital, where she was recovering from frostbite to her hands, toes and legs, police said.

The child boarded the Mayflower school bus Friday for Ashland Elementary School in Midtown Kansas City, police said. When the girl did not return Friday afternoon, her mother filed a missing person report with police, who began a search.

Police found the girl early Sunday in the Mayflower school bus parking lot.

Temperatures fell to 24 degrees Saturday night.

The bus driver was fired for failing to inspect the bus before leaving the route, said Kye Martin, spokesman for Mayflower Contract Services. (AP)

SYDNEY, Australia: A man claims he rode 450 miles (724 kilometres) on the back of a stingray to safety after his boat capsized three weeks ago, a radio station reports.

Radio Vanuatu said Wednesday that 18-year-old Leslie Stevens washed up Wednesday in New Caledonia. It said Stevens' boat capsized January 15 while he and a friend were on a fishing trip off the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu.

The friend died, and after four days spent drifting with the overturned boat, Stevens decided to try to swim to safety. Radio Vanuatu reported. Despite numerous sharks, a stingray came to Stevens' rescue and carried him on its back for 13 days and nights to New Caledonia, the radio said.

The report could not be confirmed. It said Stevens was weak and recovering in a hospital.

Radio Vanuatu said it was the second time someone had been saved by a fish.

LOS ANGELES: Taxi drivers lacking cleanliness or courtesy will face fines, thanks to a new ordinance.

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley on Monday signed the law calling for \$500 fines to punish cabbies and the city's six taxi companies for behaviour deemed uncouth. The ordinance takes effect March 28.

"I think we now will see a new day in Los Angeles in terms of cab service," Bradley said. He urged disgruntled riders to telephone the department of transportation with complaints.

US pulls Perrier water off shelves

GREENWICH, Connecticut, Feb 10, (UPI) — The Perrier group of America announced yesterday it is recalling its inventory of mineral water in the United States because a "small sample" of bottles tested showed the presence of the poisonous liquid benzene.

Company spokesmen said it was not known where the chemical contamination came from, but it is examining its packaging and distribution process. They said there was no evidence of intentional tampering.

The popular water has only one source, a spring in Vergèze, France, and the French government has certified that it is not contaminated, Perrier officials said in Vergèze, they said.

Benzene is a clear inflammable poisonous liquid used as a solvent believed to be a cancer causing agent.

Eliane Luzzin, a company spokeswoman, said she had not heard of anyone getting sick from the upscale drink.

Perrier did not say what prompted the testing of the small sample that is, whether it received word of a possible contamination from a consumer or whether something unusual was detected by company workers during packaging.

However public officials in North Carolina said they found benzene in the mineral water earlier this week when testing the quality of water from their own public supply against the bottled drink.

"We tested some Perrier we collected and did the tests in conjunction with Department of Environmental Health and Natural Resources" state Agriculture Department spokesman Robert Gordon said "the tests that we ran were from 12 to 19 parts (benzene) per billion (ppb)."

The Environment Protection Agency has established a maximum contamination level of 5 ppb of benzene for public drinking water officials said.

The increased risk of cancer associated with benzene is based on lifetime exposure, state officials said. Tests indicate the presence of benzene in Perrier water for a period of months rather than years, they said.

"We feel like for short term use it would not be a great health risk," Gordon said. "Over a long period it could be greater."

State officials warned its residents yesterday to discontinue consuming the drink.

Perrier said its recall is voluntary.

The company did not say how many bottles were involved in the contamination or testing, and had no reports of contamination anywhere else in the world.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

A leading company is seeking for **SALESMEN**

with minimum 5 years' experience in the field of construction machinery and spares. Applicants should possess valid driving licence and transferable residence.

Please send your C.V. with copies of your credentials to:

P.O. Box 192 Safat - Kuwait

24 K PANDA GOLD COINS
SHOW YOUR LOVE AND
RESPECT, ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦
MAKE AN EVER LASTING GIFT...
GOLD COINS LASTS FOREVER ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

Oriental Pearl Souk Al Muttaheda. Tel. 2442174

GET FACE TO FACE WITH HONG KONG



For further information please contact

Hong Kong Trade Development Council

Middle East Office: P.O. Box 7434 Dubai, United Arab Emirates Telephone 665950660684, Telex 46361 MARKET EM, Teletex: 667114
Head Office: 36-38 F. Office Tower, Convention Plaza, 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong Telephone 8334333 Teletex: 824249
Telex: 73595 GONK HK, Cable CNOITRAO HONG KONG

HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

227 United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong
Telephone 5229229 Telex: 83335 TRINDI HK Teletex: 527843

US slipping in science

Report finds number of troubling signs

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (UPI): The United States' worldwide dominance of science and technology may be slipping as other nations close the gap in areas long considered bastions of US excellence, a report concluded yesterday.

"The United States is strong presently in science and technology. We have been the leader for more than 40 years. And we still are," said Mary Good, chairman of the national science board, which issued the report.

"At the same time the advantage that we had in the past is also gone. History tells us that nations go up and nations go down. But

they truly can go down. If we don't get serious ... there's a real risk of a slow slide toward second-rate status," she told a news conference.

The 401-page "Science and engineering indicators" report concludes, "we need a new national commitment to provide human, financial and physical resources commensurate with the importance of science and technology to America's future."

The report is issued every two years by the policy-making board of the National Science Foundation to help government, industry and academic leaders evaluate science and engineering in the nation based on a variety of

criteria. Although there were some promising areas, this year's report found a number of troubling signs, including:

■ In 1988, US inventors received 52 per cent of the US patents granted while foreigners received the remaining 48 per cent — the highest share of US patents ever granted to foreigners.

■ While the United States still spends more on research and development than the next four industrialised countries combined, international competitors such as Japan and West Germany spend more in relation to their total gross national product.

Bell Lab confirms new form of matter

NEWARK, New Jersey, Feb 9, (AP): AT-and-T said that researchers at its Bell Laboratories have confirmed the existence of "quasi-crystals," a new and much-debated form of matter that could be used to improve electronic equipment.

Scientists in university and private research say X-rays and other techniques already have helped prove quasi-crystals exist, but say Bell Labs' research gives the most straightforward description of the matter.

Discovered in 1984, Quasi-crystals have been the focus of some of the most intense study in the scientific community along with superconductivity and cold fusion, say scientists familiar with the subject.

Researchers praised Bell Labs' announcement, but said it could not be considered a breakthrough, as the company claimed.

Paul Horn, director of physical science at International Business Machine's Thomas J. Watson Research Centre in Yorktown, New York, called the development a "nice piece of science." But he said, "It didn't tell us anything we didn't expect."

While research has revealed the presence of quasi-crystals in bulk form, Bell Labs provided the first glimpse of a quasi-crystal surface, helping refute arguments that previous manifestations were a quirk of nature, said Lionel Kimmerling, who heads Bell Labs' materials interface research department in Murray Hill, New Jersey, west of Newark.

The company used a scanning-tunnelling microscope, which is exact enough to probe individual atoms. Researchers cut atoms on a plane and used the microscope to move a fine-tipped probe over the surface. The image of each atom was then projected on a television screen, said Kimmerling.

"It's the first time that people have used a scanning-tunnelling microscope to get an image of the surface of the material," Horn said. "It confirms what people believed and what people had very good evidence for."

The three states of matter are solid, liquid and gas. The solid state is divided into amorphous — or unorganised — solids such as glass, and crystal, which includes rocks and metals. The quasi-crystal — in this case composed of an alloy of aluminum, cobalt and copper — falls in between the two known categories of solids.

Bell Labs' finding was published in the Jan 8, edition of Physical Review Letters, the journal of the American Physical Society.

"It's definitely in the revolutionary category," said Kimmerling. "Now we have a new material and we're anxious to find out what it will do that substances not structured like this cannot do."

The outlook for uses of quasi-crystals is mixed. AT-and-T officials said the material used to make quasi-crystals is durable, lightweight and can withstand a range of temperatures, qualities valuable in making electrical fuses and resistors.

But Kimmerling said any practical uses of the technology are years away.

Reagan agrees to video testimony

First questioning on Iran-Contra affair

WASHINGTON, Feb 10, (AP): Former President Ronald Reagan will give a videotaped deposition for the trial of a foreign policy adviser in what will be Reagan's first in-depth questioning on the Iran-Contra affair since he left office.

Reagan yesterday consented to a videotaped deposition in which lawyers for his former aide, John Poindexter, will ask him 154 questions, plus follow-up questions.

The former national security adviser is charged with conspiracy, two counts of obstructing Congress and two counts of making false statements for his role in the biggest scandal of Reagan's eight years as president.

The Iran-Contra affair involved the clandestine sale of US arms to Iran and then the use of profits from those deals to arm the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras, fighting to topple the Managua government.



Reputed mob boss John Gotti raises his fist in victory as he leaves New York state supreme court in Manhattan yesterday after a jury found him not guilty on assault and conspiracy in the shooting of carpenter union head John O'Connor. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gotti acquitted of all charges

Celebration time

NEW YORK, Feb 10, (Reuters): Admirers of reputed mafia "godfather" John Gotti celebrated his acquittal of conspiracy and assault charges by setting off fireworks and cheering in the streets of New York's little Italy last night as Gotti roared his good fortune with friends.

Gotti, 49, the alleged head of the Gambino crime family, was found not guilty and acquitted by a 12-member jury on all six charges that could have sent him to jail for life.

After the trial, Gotti was greeted by cheering admirers on the streets of the Italian section of lower Manhattan as he arrived in a luxury limousine to celebrate at the Rave Club, a reputed mob meeting place.

Later, fireworks soared in the night sky while inside the club Gotti, dressed in a teal-blue double-breasted silk suit, drank champagne with friends toasting his acquittal.

In Ozone Park area of Queens people celebrated outside the Bergin Hunt and Fish Club, another site controlled by Gotti. The jury had deliberated for four days over whether Gotti had ordered the shooting of carpenter union boss John O'Connor,

listening over and over to secretly-recorded tapes that were a key element of the prosecution's case.

The prosecution had alleged that Gotti, known as "the dapper don", ordered the attack on O'Connor after the union leader wrecked a mob-controlled restaurant that used non-union building workers. Four gunmen shot O'Connor in the legs and buttocks on May 7, 1986. He survived the attack.

John Gotti, 49, the alleged head of the Gambino crime family, shook his lawyer's hand and embraced him after the foreman of the 12-member jury read the verdict.

"Nice job," he told long-time lawyer Bruce Cutler after his second major acquittal in three years.

About 15 of Gotti's supporters, dressed in dark suits and ties, erupted into cheers and yells, prompting Judge Edward McLaughlin to angrily interrupt the proceedings and warn them they would be jailed if they did not keep quiet.

The jury had deliberated for four days over whether Gotti had ordered the shooting of O'Connor.

The subject areas during the questioning will include Reagan's knowledge of his former aide Oliver North's activities on behalf of the Contras and whether Reagan authorized written responses to Congress relating to the Nicaraguan rebels. The charges Poindexter is facing are in connection with those responses to Congress.

Details on the timing and other arrangements for the videotaped testimony will be worked out Monday in a hearing before US district court judge Harold Greene, who will preside at the Poindexter trial, scheduled to start Feb 20.

Reagan proposed to answer the questions Feb 16 in Los Angeles.

Reagan said in a court filing that he recognizes the courts have a responsibility to protect Poindexter's rights. But his lawyers also said Reagan retains the right to invoke executive privilege to specific questions during the deposition.

Indicating they expect representatives of President George Bush's administration to be permitted to attend the deposition, Reagan's lawyers said they will "defer to the incumbent president" regarding issues of executive privilege on national security or foreign affairs.

Green will attend the deposition to rule on disputes. Claiming executive privilege to specific questions could result in halting the deposition in mid-stream and taking the matter through court appeals. Or, more likely, the deposition would continue while the specific questions at issue remain unanswered, pending appeals.

The "videotape deposition format will provide an appropriate mechanism — to protect sensitive, classified national security information and confidential deliberations," Reagan's lawyers said.

The edited videotape would be shown at Poindexter's trial.

Reagan told an investigating commission led by former Sen. John Tower that he did not know the National Security Council staff was engaged in helping the Contras. The Tower commission concluded after its investigation that it was aware of no evidence to suggest Reagan was aware of North's activities on behalf of the Contras when North was an NSC aide.

Poindexter, however, will ask Reagan whether he knew far more than he told the Tower commission about North's activities.

Poindexter also plans to ask Reagan if he approved responses to Congress inquiring into whether North was assisting the Contras.



Thank God, my son is free

With her son's head on her shoulder, the mother of the former Contra prisoner thanks God for his release from prison in Tipitapa Feb 9. More

than 1000 prisoners were released here today, beneficiaries of presidential pardon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nicaragua frees 1,000 political prisoners

MANAGUA, Feb 10, (Reuters): Nicaragua freed more than 1,000 political prisoners yesterday in an effort to heal the wounds from years of revolution and civil war, but many emerged unrepentant and bitter against the leftist government.

"If they let us work, I will work. If not I will continue in the struggle," said Jose Luis Morales, 46, who spent five years in jail for assisting US backed Contra rebels in their nine-year long war against the ruling Sandinistas.

The prisoners, released in a ceremony at Tipitapa prison near Managua, included 1,151 people accused of being Contras or of helping the rebels.

Also freed were 39 members of former dictator Anastasio Somoza's national guard, some of whom have been accused of murdering, torturing and raping Sandinista leaders before the 1979 revolution.

The National Assembly pardoned the prisoners this week after President Daniel Ortega called for their release as a gesture of reconciliation before elections on Feb 25.

Commandante Franco Montenegro, head of prisons, read out a decree ordering the release of the prisoners, who stood in long lines on the dusty prison parade ground.

Officials say no national guardsmen or Contras remain in Nicaraguan jails following the release.

The 39 guardsmen were excluded from a mass prisoner release last year because the authorities accused them of human rights violations and said they had refused to submit to political re-education.

Most remained defiant after almost 11 years in jail.

Colonel Isaias Cuadra, 56, angrily rejected allegations by a Sandinista legislator this week that he had tortured Ortega when he was jailed under the Somoza government.

"The Sandinista commanders know that I was in charge of the office of national security for 22 years and was never a torturer," he said.

US pledge to Andeans

Drug crackdown

WASHINGTON, Feb 10, (AP): The United States has completed an agreement with three South American countries that commits the United States to broad assistance in countering their economic reliance on drugs, an official said yesterday.

In addition to the \$423-million anti-drug package President George Bush is proposing for Peru, Bolivia and Colombia, the United States will pledge to help track illegal export of US produced firearms used by drug dealers and to crack down on drug-related chemical exports, officials said.

The four-nation agreement also calls for Bush to press other Western nations to provide economic aid to the three Andean nations, said a South American diplomat familiar with the document.

The statement has been prepared for signature by the presidents of the four countries when they meet at the Feb 15 drug summit in Cartagena, Colombia. "We've got agreement," on the final wording, said Michael Skol, deputy assistant secretary of state for South American affairs, on Friday.

He described it as: "A very comprehensive document of co-operation on the drug issue," significant for its recognition of rights and respon-

sibilities of producer and consumer countries "without finger-pointing."

The US portion of the document conforms to Bush's national drug strategy, he said. The agreement covers interdiction, military co-operation, economic alternatives to the drug trade, and efforts to get other countries' aid in the anti-drug effort.

"There's a promise of asking of increased spending," by Congress, but no dollar amounts in the document, he said.

For the second year of his national anti-drug strategy, Bush last month proposed 423 million dollars for fiscal year 1991 in overall drug-related spending for the Andean countries, including military, law enforcement and economic assistance. Some \$206 million of that sum represents a rise in spending, as part of a five-year \$2.2 billion plan.

Skol said the statement will discuss money laundering, arms exports, precursor chemicals and extradition, as well as military assistance and economic aid — including such matters as balance of payment assistance and substitute crops to make up for destruction of lucrative coca fields.

Laundering group uncovered: A money-laundering ring based in New Jersey handled \$100 million a year for Colombian drug lords, federal prosecutors said Friday, announcing the arrest of more than a dozen suspects and the seizure of \$10 million in cash and bank accounts.

The group allegedly handled by Julio Montes Cardona received their orders by coded fax transmission from a Barranquilla, Colombia, woman with ties to Pablo Escobar of the Medellin cartel and Fabio Ochoa of the Cali cartel, US attorney Samuel A. Alito Jr said.

This organisation has been operating for some time and is suspected of laundering millions and millions of dollars, Alito said.

Alito described the operation as the largest money-laundering group uncovered in New Jersey. (UPI)

Marijuana use approved: The US Food and Drug Administration approved the smoking of marijuana for a patient who suffers pain and muscle spasms from a rare medical disorder, a patients rights organisation said on Friday in Washington.

The Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics said the government agency had given approval to George McMahon, 39, to smoke marijuana to relieve problems associated with his — petzella syndrome, a rare genetic disorder with fewer than 200 reported cases.

The agency later confirmed it had given approval to McMahon to buy government-grown marijuana through prescription.

Bob Randall, a glaucoma sufferer who heads the organisation, said there are now five legal users of marijuana in the United States, including himself. He won a landmark case in 1976 to become the first modern legal user of the drug to treat a medical

condition. (Reuters)

Jury selection begins: Jury selection began Thursday in Milton, Florida in the murder trial of an Evangelist accused of convincing a mother to withhold food from her 4-year-old girl to rid her of demons.

The opening of the trial before circuit judge George Lowery comes two years to the day after the death of Kimberly McZine.

Mary Nicholson, 39, of Pace, Florida, is charged with murder and aggravated child abuse for allegedly convincing Darlene Jackson that her daughter was possessed by six demons that could be exorcised through strict diet and discipline.

Jackson, 33, was sentenced in September 1989 to seven years in prison after pleading guilty six months earlier to third-degree murder and child abuse before the jury began deliberations.

After sentencing, Jackson vowed to testify against Nicholson. (AP)

Skeleton impostor unmasked: The "tepepan man," known to a generation of schoolchildren as Mexico's oldest skeleton, was unmasked as an impostor on Friday when researchers announced the human remains were neither male nor especially old.

"This is the end of the myth of the tepepan man, who is actually a woman and dates back no more than 2,000 years," archaeologist Jose Luis Lorenzo told a news conference.

For decades researchers believed the skeleton, discovered in 1947 and nicknamed "the Mexican grandfather," could have been 10,000 years old or older, said Lorenzo, an Emeritus professor at the National Anthropology and History Institute.

Concorde low on fuel

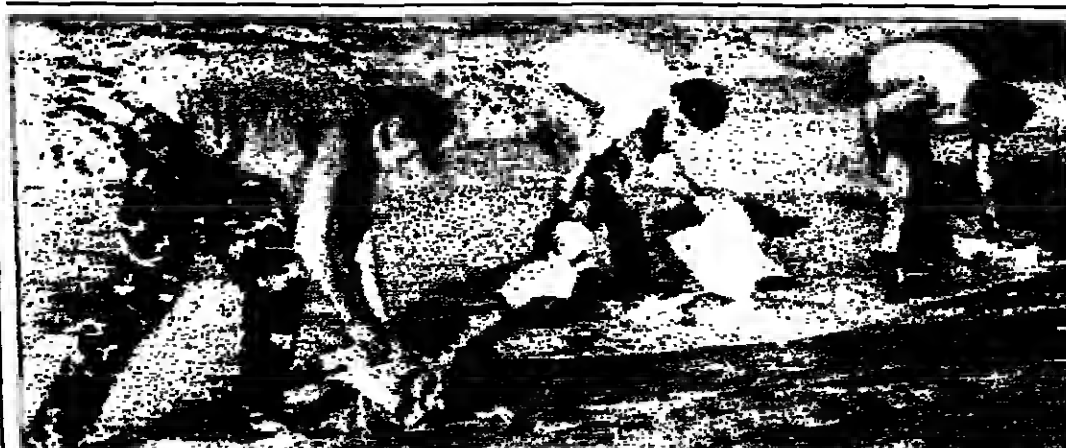
Priority landing

NEW YORK, Feb 10, (UPI): A supersonic Air France Concorde jet was given priority landing Friday at Kennedy international airport when pilots told air traffic controllers the plane was low on fuel following a trans-Atlantic flight.

Air France Flight 001, which was carrying 74 passengers, was forced to drop down to subsonic speed 90 minutes before landing because of a problem with the plane's autopilot, officials said, adding that the jet landed with 30 minutes worth of fuel left in its tanks.

At 1.34 pm, the crew told air traffic controllers in Nashua, New Hampshire, who were monitoring the flight before Kennedy trackers took over, that the plane was low on fuel, said Kathleen Bergen, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Bergen said she did not know whether controllers actually used the word "emergency" when relaying the plane's fuel status to their colleagues at Kennedy, but the plane was allowed to make a direct landing at 1.56 pm.



Volunteers use oil absorbent pads to clean up light brown foam washing up on shore Feb 9. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soul singer James Brown may be freed

AUGUSTA, Georgia, Feb 10, (UPI): A Georgia state judge cleared the way for soul singer James Brown to get out of a South Carolina prison.

State court judge Gayle Hamrick cut 90 days off Brown's Georgia sentence, making him eligible for work release in South Carolina. South Carolina officials could not say when Brown would be freed from prison or where he would be employed.

Community services director Tony Strawhorn said Brown's release would depend on the availability of bed

space and a job.

Brown is serving a six-year sentence in South Carolina on multiple charges stemming from a 1988 incident that started in August when Brown burst into an insurance seminar with a shotgun. He then led police on a chase that crossed the South Carolina-Georgia border.

Brown received a concurrent six-year and 90-day sentence in Georgia on charges involving the same incident. South Carolina officials did not want to release him until the two sentences were equalised.

'End of a long chapter'

World welcomes Mandela freedom

Leaders hail decision

WASHINGTON, Feb 10, (Reuters): President George Bush today hailed as a "bold and imaginative" step the South African decision to free black nationalist Nelson Mandela after 27 years in prison.

"I welcome this move and view it as another significant step on the road to the non-racial democratic South Africa which we all desire," Bush said in a statement issued from the presidential retreat in nearby Camp David, Maryland.

"President De Klerk has shown bold and imaginative leadership in recent days which has earned the admiration of many of us who hope for swift and peaceful evolution in South Africa," Bush said.

The President repeated an earlier announcement that he would invite Mandela and De Klerk separately to come to Washington.

"As I stated earlier, I look forward to meeting independently with state President De Klerk and Mr Mandela in the coming months as part of my continuing dialogue with South African leadership," he said.

Randal Robinson, director of a leading US anti-apartheid pressure group, TransAfrica, said Mandela's release is "the first tiny step on a long road."

He said the release came about because of sanctions against South Africa by the United States and West European countries.

Robinson said that those sanctions should remain in force, noting that the South African government has still not lifted the state of emergency that gives it extraordinary police powers, nor moved to repeal apartheid racial separation laws.

He also called for the removal of troops from

black townships and the freeing of remaining political prisoners.

"It is too early to evaluate the good faith of De Klerk," Robinson said. "So far, these are small concessions."

Senator Edward Kennedy and others in Congress who have sponsored legislation to impose sanctions against South Africa were not immediately available for comment. Congress is now in recess.

But others welcomed the news.

"Of course I'm happy to hear it," said the Reverend Calvin Butts, pastor of a Harlem church and a leader of New York City's black community. "I believe that means that Mandela has some level of satisfaction concerning how things will proceed once he is released, that is, the reforms being instituted by F.W. de Klerk will continue."

"I think the world owes some congratulations to De Klerk," Butts added. "In light of recent reports, it has taken great deal of courage for him to do what he did."

"Of course Mr Mandela was at one time a tool for change," Butts said. "With his imprisonment he became more of a symbol. His release is symbolic and we hope he once again will become a tool to shape freedom for South African blacks."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher praised De Klerk's decision to free Mandela and said she saw no further reason to discourage new investment in South Africa.

"I very warmly welcome the announcement today of the unconditional release of Mandela. This is a goal towards which the British government and many others in Britain have worked long and hard," her office said in a statement.

(Continued from Page 1)

In Johannesburg, police used tear-gas and batons to disperse some 100 demonstrators protesting the presence of a boycott-breaking English cricket team.

About 500 members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement, many in khaki uniforms and armed with truncheons, gathered in downtown Pretoria to march on the government buildings.

The protest came before De Klerk told a news conference in Cape Town that he would free Mandela.

Before the march began, some members of the movement began shouting "hang Mandela."

In Lusaka, Zambia, the ANC's headquarters-in-exile, the news was greeted with jubilation.

"I can hardly believe it," said ANC executive committee member James Stuart. "It's a great victory for our people."

The government has expressed fears about Mandela's safety following reported death threats from right- and left-wing extremists.

De Klerk said the matter of security was being discussed with Mandela's colleagues, but added: "When he is released he becomes a free man. He doesn't owe it to me to inform him about his programme."

Mandela's wife, Winnie, was at the family home in Soweto, outside Johannesburg and had no immediate comment.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who won the Nobel Peace prize in 1984 for his anti-apartheid activities, said: "These are incredible days in which we are living."

The anti-apartheid campaigner heard the news while visiting the house of Mandela's wife Winnie in the black Soweto township near Johannesburg. As he left, his car was surrounded by a large crowd of reporters.

He got out of the car smiling broadly, jumped in the air and yelled "hurrah!" before getting back in and driving off.

Tutu and other Mandela supporters danced and sang celebration after news of the release was announced.

In Washington, President George Bush welcomed the announcement and praised De Klerk for "bold and imaginative leadership."

Radio Moscow said the end of Mandela's imprisonment was "an important step on the way towards the beginning of negotiations between the authorities and the anti-racist forces to bring down apartheid."

Mrs Mandela is expected to fly to Cape Town to be with her husband when he at last leaves Victor Verster prison.

Walter Sisulu, Mandela's closest ANC colleague, was also en route for Cape Town for the release celebrations.

A senior official of the ANC, said Mandela's release was "a turning point in our history."

ANC officials who will preside over the release headed for Victor Verster immediately after the announcement to consult with Mandela.

A source in the anti-apartheid movement said Mandela would probably address a rally in Cape Town before returning to his Soweto home.

Police went on full alert today to control victory celebrations in South Africa's townships and government sources said all police leave was cancelled.

The sources said police chiefs in Pretoria, the South African capital, were at their desks today before De Klerk spoke.

An operations centre had been set up, the sources said, to monitor the security situation following Mandela's release.



De Klerk

Ten pupils shot dead in Niger

NIAMEY, Feb 10, (Reuters): Police shot dead 10 students in Niger's capital Niamey and wounded 50 when they opened fire to disperse a protest against austerity measures and cutbacks, medical sources said today.

There has been no official reaction to the reports of the shootings yesterday and the city was calm today.

Police acted to disperse hundreds of striking student demonstrators when they tried to march from the university across the Niger river to the main business district.

The sources said one of the victims was 13-years-old youth. At least two policemen were hurt, one with a stab wound and the other with an eye injury.

The 4,500 university students went on strike to oppose austerity measures and cutbacks that are part of an economic restructuring programme agreed by the government with the world bank.

The strike has since spread to the capital's secondary and primary schools.

There has been no official reaction to the strike and the shootings which are without recent precedent in this vast and impoverished country, most of which is in the Sahara Desert.

Florida radio station offers Rooney a job

TAMPA, Florida, Feb 10, (UPI): Andy Rooney, the droll, ever-wondering essayist suspended by CBS News for racist remarks attributed to him in a Los Angeles homosexual publication, was offered a job yesterday hosting a talk show on a Florida radio station.

The three-month package offered by Tampa radio station WFLA-AM includes free use of a golfside condominium near St Petersburg, daily limousine services and a plum, noon to 3 pm time slot, station operations manager Gabe Hobbs said.

"We've never really hired anybody of this stature

before, so I really don't know what to expect," he said. "I think the chance to spend a winter vacation in Florida and an opportunity to continue working certainly may pique his interest."

Rooney, a best-selling book writer and commentator on the popular CBS News programme "60 minutes," was suspended Thursday for three months by CBS News president David Burke after the Advocate, a bi-weekly newspaper, quoted him as saying black people "watered down" their genes because the less intelligent have the most children.

Call to dismantle 'Korean wall' too

MOSCOW, Feb 10, (Reuters): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze called today for international efforts to break down the 'Korean wall' now that the Berlin Wall dividing the two Germanys was being dismantled.

"A wall exists across the Korean peninsula dividing one people from another," he told a news conference at the end of a visit to Moscow by US Secretary of State James Baker.

"The international community should aim to break down this Korean wall and ensure the free movement of peoples."

"For years there was constant talk about the Berlin Wall. I would like to call on you now to raise your voices about the Korean wall," Shevardnadze told reporters at the Foreign Ministry press centre.

In a joint statement issued after the Shevardnadze-Baker talks, the two powers expressed the desire "to reduce tensions in the Korean peninsula and to support a North-South dialogue."

In recent months, Moscow has established informal trade and consular relations with South Korea in what the government newspaper Izvestia this week said could eventually lead to full diplomatic ties.

At the same time, Soviet officials have strongly criticised the sentencing by South Korea courts to long jail terms of South Koreans who have visited the North.

Shevardnadze told the news conference he was aware of US concerns that North Korea, with which Moscow still retains close ties, could be developing potential for producing nuclear weapons.

He said he had advised the secretary of state that Pyongyang was close to an agreement with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on nuclear safeguards.

The joint statement said the US "expressed its desire that the agreement be concluded swiftly and observed faithfully."

The Seoul Appellate Court reduced by three years the prison sentences of two dissidents convicted of visiting North Korea without government approval, court officials said today.

Pastor Moon Ik-Hwan, 72, and his companion Yn Won-Ho, 60, who had received 10 years prison sentences last October, now will serve seven years each, the court ruled.

A three-judge panel of the court, which handed down the reduced terms, said a lower court had committed a procedural error by conducting a hearing without the presence of the lawyers representing the two dissidents.

The panel also said there was not sufficient evidence to back up the lower court's finding that Moon supported North Korea's cause for national reunification and that Yn went to North Korea on orders from North Koreans.

US troop cuts

Cheney allays Asian fears

WASHINGTON, Feb 10, (AP): Defence Secretary Dick Cheney leaves today on a trip to Asia where he is expected to discuss with key allies possible US troop cuts and the future of American bases in the Pacific.

Cheney is conducting the two-week series of meetings in the Philippines, Korea and Japan, as well as Hong Kong, in advance of an April 1 report to Congress on reorganising US forces in East Asia.

Before travelling to South Korea, Cheney planned a three-night stop in Hawaii for talks with Adm. Huntington Hardisty, the top military man in the Pacific, and visits with US troops at several military bases there.

In a recent interview with wire service reporters, Cheney said he had "a full range of items to discuss" with the civilian and military leaders on his trip, including the issue of "burdensharing." The term refers to efforts to seek funding from nations that host US forces, such as Japan, South Korea and Western Europe.

Cheney has signed a paper that assumes the Asian allies must take up more of the burden of their defence, and assumes a smaller US military presence in the Pacific. But the document, which offers guidance to US military services, also stresses that the United States must remain committed to the "forward deployment" of its forces in the region.

During a time of tight budgets at home, the defence secretary has come under severe questioning in Congress about his \$292.1 billion request for Pentagon spending during the next fiscal year.

And even though Cheney announced in connection with his budget that some 2,000 US personnel will be withdrawn from three US Air Force bases in South Korea in an attempt to cut costs, some lawmakers are demanding more severe cuts in US forces overseas.

Journalist killer's conviction upheld

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 10, (AP): A state appeals court yesterday upheld the murder conviction of a Taiwanese gangster for the 1984 slaying of a Chinese-American journalist who had written critically of Taiwan's government.

Tung Kuei-sen, 37, admitted taking part in the shooting of Henry Liu and said he did it out of patriotism after being told Liu was a traitor.

The 1st District Court of Appeals said Tung's motives weren't the equivalent of "heat of passion," which makes an intentional killing manslaughter rather than murder. The 3-0 ruling upheld Tung's

sentence of 27 years to life in prison.

Liu, a Taiwanese-born US citizen and author of a critical biography of Taiwan President Chiang Ching-Kuo, was shot to death in October 1984 at his home in Daly City, south of San Francisco, by gunmen who were later traced to the United Bamboo gang in Taiwan.

Military courts in Taiwan convicted five men of responsibility for the murder, including the nation's defence intelligence chief, vice-admiral Wong Hsi-lin, who was found to have ordered the gangs to silence Liu. Wong was sentenced to life in prison.

Taiwan oldies fighting it out

TAIPEI, Feb 10, (AP): President Lee Teng-Hui is a shoo-in to be nominated for re-election tomorrow by the ruling Nationalist Party, but a battle between aging conservatives and reformers is raging over his running mate.

The political infighting could determine the pace of reforms in Taiwan, which had its first multiparty election in December after 38 years of martial law.

One conservative favourite is Chiang Wego, a former general and son of Chiang Kai-Shek, who ruled Taiwan with an iron fist through four decades.

At tomorrow's Nationalist Party convention, 180 members of the party's central committee are widely expected to nominate Lee for six more years as president. The central committee

includes many military and government officials who have pledged their allegiance to Lee after he succeeded another of Chiang Kai-Shek's sons, president Chiang Ching-Kuo, who died in office in 1988.

Lee will then announce his running mate and the committee will vote on his choice.

Elderly members of the National Assembly, Taiwan's electoral college which meets in March to elect the president and vice-president, have lobbied for a conservative running mate to counterbalance Lee, who is considered a reformer.

Many of the old guard fear that if Lee picks a reformist like himself they will be forced from power. Losing power would mean a loss of salary and lucrative perks.

Lee, the first native Taiwanese to head the nationalist government and party, has given no hint of who he might choose for his running mate.

Liu Kuo-Tsai, speaker of the legislature, quoted the president as saying, "I am exhausted mentally and physically" over the choice of a vice-presidential candidate.

Lee reportedly would like to pick his running mate from reform-minded cabinet ministers and officials such as James Soong, secretary-general of the Nationalist Party.

Aesthetic Perfection



Savour the essence of Italy with our delicious pasta specialties and monthly Italian food promotions. Plus tasteful decor, graceful service and the Italian music of "Siena Duo" ensures that your evening at Riccardo is a true taste of 'Italia'.

And the finer things in life.

Reservations recommended. Closed Fridays.

Tel: 2422055 Ext. 118

Riccardo

شيراتون الكويت
Kuwait Sheraton Hotel
The hospitality people of TTT

A European Company has a vacancy for an ALL-ROUND BOOKKEEPER/ SECRETARY

The most important duties that have to be solved are:

Clerical work due to:

- financial records and cashflow

- salary administration

- invoicing to customers

Control of accounts receivable

Take care of the necessary permits for:

- personnel and business visitors

General services like:

- telephone

- fax

- reception

Due to the above contacts with:

- customers

- suppliers

- banker

- Government

The following knowledge/experience is needed for the job:

- a good administrative education

- well known with automation

- Arabic and English languages in writing/typing/ speaking

- experience in comparable job for several years.

All applications in writing to be addressed to:

The General Manager

Mr J. Verberk

P.O. Box 42273 Shurwalkh

70653 Kuwait.

The envelopes should be clearly marked "Bookkeeper/ Secretary"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kelso lands top navy job: President George Bush will nominate Admiral Frank B. Kelso II to be the new chief of naval operations, the White House announced in San Francisco Wednesday.

Kelso, now commander in chief of the US Atlantic Command and supreme allied commander for the Atlantic, would succeed Admiral Carlisle A.H. Trost, whose term expires June 30.

Kelso, 56, is a former commander of the US Atlantic Fleet and the Sixth Fleet.

The Fayetteville, Tennessee, native is a 1956 naval academy graduate. (AP)

Twins hold-up sheriff, kill selves: Twin robbery suspects held the Richland county sheriff hostage in the county courthouse for four hours Friday night before one of the twins killed his brother and himself, authorities said.

The sheriff was unharmed.

Assistant county prosecutor Jerry Ault said Brad Jordan killed his twin brother, Chad, with a single shot to the head, then turned the weapon on himself.

The 18-year-old brothers had been brought from jail to the sheriff's detective bureau in the courthouse for questioning about a string of robberies they allegedly committed 10 days before in three northeastern Ohio towns.

The twins overcame deputy Deb Strine and took her gun, then held her hostage until sheriff Dale Shetler exchanged himself for Strine, said sheriff's officer Gregory Kemp.

Shetler was in the room when Jordan killed his brother and himself, Kemp said.

The twins' mother, Sandra Teeters, and stepbrother, Kenneth Teeters, were outside the courthouse during the standoff. (AP)

Oldest journalism club closes: The vanishing image of the hard-drinking, chain-smoking reporter has lost more of its luster — the oldest press club in the United States has closed its doors in Philadelphia.

The 98-year-old pen and pencil club survived the death of more than a dozen Philadelphia periodicals but now has fallen victim to the changing drinking habits of journalists and the high-crime neighbourhood it moved to in 1966.

More than a hundred people — close to half the club's dwindling membership — jammed the bar Friday night, threatening to drain the beer supply.

Stories were swapped — about the card games in the 1950s that would bring police raids, the time a couple got caught in the restroom in an amorous clinch, the numerous "raunchy" parties. (AP)

Crematorium operator to be tried: A former mortician serving a sentence for mutilating corpses was charged with murder in the poisoning death of a competitor in 1985, authorities said in Los Angeles.

...

Tit-for-tat expulsion: A Greek diplomat ordered out of Turkey in a tit-for-tat expulsion left for Athens on Saturday, airport officials said.

Elias Kisi, consul-general in Istanbul, returned home after Athens last week told Kemal Gur, Turkey's consul-general in the northern town of Komotini, to leave.

Gur had referred to Muslim ethnic Turks in western Thrace as "fellow countrymen" and "citizens of Turkish origin."

Greece insists on describing the 120,000-strong minority, remnants of Ottoman-Turkish rule which ended in 1913, as "Greek Muslim." (Reuters)

Minister called an idiot: A British minister has been described by a judge as "idiotic and provocative" for kicking off a little girl after stealing flowers from his garden, it was reported in London Thursday.

Employment Minister Tim Eggar was later attacked by her outraged father and had two teeth broken in the brawl.

But when the angry parent appeared in court yesterday on an assault charge, Judge Keith McFale said he could well understand his feeling.

The father was sentenced to three weeks jail suspended for a year.

The court heard that Eggar had seen the girl and her 11-year-old friend taking flowers from his front garden, and decided to rebuke them. (KUNA)

Le Pen reignites conflict: The controversial French extreme-right leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen Thursday reignited a conflict with the Jewish community in Paris by reaffirming that the gas chambers are "details of the Second World War history."

In an interview with the "Quotidien de Paris," Le Pen defended his earlier position in calling the gas chambers, used by the Nazis in liquidating several non-Aryan communities, as details of history and not the cause of the whole war.

His first made his declaration in September 1987, ruffling the feathers of the Jewish community that demands a national day for the memory of the gas chamber victims in Nazi concentration camps. (KUNA)

Buna death toll rises: The death toll from an explosion at an ageing East German chemical plant rose to five on Saturday when two people died in hospital.

Over 30 workers were injured in the blast.

The official news agency ADN said the cause of Friday's blast in a carbide-producing oven at the state-owned Buna chemical complex near Halle remained unclear.

Much of East Germany's heavy industry dates from the early 1900s and lacks basic anti-pollution and safety devices. Workers had long accused Buna of being unsafe. (Reuters)

...

Asia

Burmese troops cross border: Burmese troops crossed into Thailand while launching intense attacks against one of the last Karen rebel military camps along the Thai-Burmese border, Thai border patrol police said Saturday.

Police officers, who requested anonymity, said the Burmese failed to capture the camp, Kaw Moo Ra, after four days of stepped-up fighting which included intense mortar and rocket barrages.

The Karen are among a dozen ethnic minorities fighting the central government in Burma for greater autonomy. In recent months, Burmese troops have overrun a string of Karen bases along the border. (AP)

...

50 die in cholera epidemic: A cholera epidemic in the Zambian capital has killed at least 50 people in less than a week and all social gatherings have been banned in an effort to slow the spread of the disease, government officials said Friday.

The government called an emergency meeting with aid donors and relief agencies Friday to solicit funds to curb the epidemic, whose outbreak was officially announced last Sunday.

...

Singer-songwriter Del Shannon dies from apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound

SANTA CLARITA, California, Feb 10 (AP): Del Shannon, who wrote and sang anguished rock songs in the 1960s, including the hits "Runaway" and "Keep Searching," died from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was 55.

Shannon's wife, "Bonnie" Leanne, found her husband's body Thursday night in the den of their home 35 miles (56 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles, sheriff's deputy Roger Hoon said yesterday.

Hoon said the death was being investigated as a possible suicide.

Los Angeles county coroner's spokesman Bob Dambacher said an autopsy would be performed over the weekend. He said Shannon died from a .22-calibre bullet wound

in the head.

"It had to be impulsive," said his lifelong friend and personal manager Dan Bourgeois. "In the end, he must have felt alone. All the paranoid things that made him write those songs he wrote, like 'Runaway.' — I think he just ended up being that lonely guy."

He said Shannon was nearing completion on a new album with Tom Petty's group, the Heartbreakers.

"I'm very saddened to have lost a friend," Petty said in a statement. "Del was one of the true greats."

Bourgeois said Shannon had been depressed recently. "He was disoriented and he was sick and he started to do all kinds of worse-case scenarios in his head," Bourgeois



New arrival

Salt Lake City's Hogle Zoo shows off its newest resident, a male orangutan born Feb 1 to Hogle Zoo's Jiggs and Vickie, a female on loan from the San Diego Zoo. The infant is only the fifth orangutan born at Hogle Zoo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fail to show up Whale-size of a puzzle

MEXICO CITY, Feb 10 (AP): Thousands of grey whales that normally make their way to the warm bays of Baja California to give birth have failed to show up so far this season, and authorities said yesterday they don't know why.

"This is the first time this has happened," said Graciela de la Garza, head of conservation for the Department of Ecology and Urban Development.

Speculation about the reason for the whales' disappearance range from the effects of last year's Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska to a new, cold-water current in the Pacific near Mexico's western peninsula.

Normally about 2,000 grey whales migrate each year to Baja California, giving birth to about 1,000 calves before returning to Arctic waters, marine mammal experts said.

This year, only 12 to 20 have arrived, according to Mexican authorities interviewed Thursday and yesterday.

Malaysia to set record straight: The Malaysian government plans a field trip to Borneo for European Economic Community officials, in an effort to prove that logging of tropical rain forests does not threaten the livelihood of nomadic tribes.

Since the EEC expressed concern about conservation of tropical rain forests and the plight of nomadic Penans living in Borneo jungles, Malaysia has decided to "set the record straight," Ajit Singh, secretary-general of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, said Friday.

Malaysian officials said EEC officials and 50 journalists will take time out from a regional meeting Feb 16-17 in Kuching, capital of Sarawak state, to visit the Penans and see that forests are not being chopped down indiscriminately.

Pets get love tokens: Roses are red, violets are blue, Rover my pet, this Valentine's for you. Unlikely but true, Japan's ever-resourceful department stores have found a new way of squeezing profits from Valentine's day — love tokens for your favourite poodle of Persian cat.

The Tokyo store in Nishi-Shinjuku, central Tokyo, is selling ribboned giftpouches of chocolates, biscuits, dried fish or beef for a mere 500 yen (\$3.50). (Reuters)

Crime cases doubled in '89: The number of "counter-revolutionary" offences and other crimes committed in China more than doubled in 1989, the Chinese government said.

Public Security Vice Minister Yu Lei told a group of legislators there were 1.97 crimes reported last year, 1.14 million more than in 1988, the official China Daily reported Saturday.

...

Africa

Savimbi promised US aid: A leader of Angola's anti-communist rebels said Friday he received assurances of continued US support as his forces face perhaps their severest test in 15 years of fighting.

Jeremias Chitunda, vice president of the Unita rebels, met with Under Secretary of State Robert Kinnitt and said he was promised material, political and diplomatic support.

The US-backed Unita forces have been engaged in an intense battle with government forces for control of an area in southeast Angola that has been in rebel hands for years. Most of the fighting has been centred on the town of Mavinga.

"We appreciate very much the sensitivity, the understanding that is manifest here towards the urgency and the seriousness of the intensity of the offensive," Chitunda said in an interview. (AP)

50 die in cholera epidemic: A cholera epidemic in the Zambian capital has killed at least 50 people in less than a week and all social gatherings have been banned in an effort to slow the spread of the disease, government officials said Friday.

The government called an emergency meeting with aid donors and relief agencies Friday to solicit funds to curb the epidemic, whose outbreak was officially announced last Sunday.

...

HONG KONG, Feb 10 (AP): Selling travel documents and smuggling aliens have become a booming business in Asia, with government officials and middlemen making fortunes creating new identities for thousands of people.

Paying up to \$50,000 a piece, thousands of Asians are leaving their continent and hoping for a better life. Most want to go to North America. Some enter a life of crime along the way.

"Alien smuggling is the crime of the '90s," said Mark D. Riordan, a Hong Kong-based special agent of the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service. "It's almost as lucrative as drugs but the penalties and dangers are minimal."

The latest rage involves a complex paper trail where legitimate travel agents in Hong Kong pay large fees for real passports and visas and then sell them to their clients. But it's also done traditionally by faking visas and ferrying travellers across borders at night.

Diplomats and travel agents say officials from Latin American countries have sold thousands of genuine travel documents to Chinese fleeing the communist regime. Bolivia recently removed several Chinese-based diplomats after allegations of trading travel documents for sex and money.

In December, the consul general for Panama in Hong Kong submitted his resignation after allegations that the consulate sold up to 7,000 visas to Chinese.

On the traditional end, counterfeit rings, are pumping out thousands of bogus travel documents to Thailand, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan and the people of Hong Kong.

Currently, the biggest market for travel documents is China, where businessmen and the children of important officials are fleeing the increasingly hard-line state. Another is Hong Kong, which reverts to communist Chinese rule in 1997.

A Chinese woman, Cheng Chui-Peng, who faces alien smuggling charges in Buffalo, New York, made tens of millions of dollars in the trade, the INS alleges.

Hong Kong travel agent John Choi estimates the industry has made roughly \$140 million in the past year moving Chinese out of China.

His office combines the routine business of selling plane tickets with intricate task of moving people out of China.

"The Chinese are desperate," said Jean Chong, another travel agent who claims he has sold scores of genuine Ecuadorian passports to Chinese nationals. "All they want to do is leave."

To get Chinese out of China, businessmen in Hong Kong say they buy visas and passports from Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Thailand. Panama, which once topped the list for document sales, saw its popularity plummet after the United States invasion in December.

The Chinese government does not

Rings pumping out thousands of bogus papers

Alien smuggling boom in Asia

Have dollar, will sell passport

HONG KONG, Feb 10 (AP): With a little patience and a lot of cash, Mr Zhang escaped China.

A \$2,500 bribe bought him a Chinese passport. Another \$6,000 bought him what he said was a genuine Brazilian visa and a ticket to South America. With some luck and \$8,000 more, he says he'll have a real Brazilian passport in a month.

On Feb 3, he arrived in Hong Kong. As he paced his Hong Kong hotel room shortly before he left for Brazil, Zhang said he was glad to be out of China. A suitcase of US dollars stood by his bed.

"I'm a businessman," said Zhang, who spoke on condition that his whole name not be used. "My nationality got in the way of my work."

China does not routinely issue passports to its people and obtaining one has become increasingly difficult since the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement last June 4.

Thousands of Chinese who have bought their way out of their communist homeland in the last year, making fortunes for middlemen and government officials dealing in

human cargo.

Businessmen from three major Hong Kong-based travel agencies estimate that more than 10,000 Chinese have left the mainland by buying either bogus or genuine travel documents since late 1988 when the Communist Party decided to halt the decade-long programme of economic reform.

Prices for a visa or passport range between \$6,000 and \$30,000 huge sums for an average Chinese.

Hong Kong travel agent John Chui estimated that he and his colleagues have made around \$140 million in the past year moving Chinese out of China.

Most of the emigrants are rich businessmen or the sons and daughters of high-ranking Communist Party officials, the travel agents say.

The final destination for most of the travellers is North America, travel agents say. Zhang said he hopes to go to the United States and also return to China as a "foreigner" — eligible for better hotels and other facilities usually off limits to average Chinese.

"Improperly issuing" thousands of visas in China until the middle of last year, said Oscar Siles, Bolivia's new consul-general in Hong Kong. Some were being exchanged for sex and others for money, diplomats said.

The illegal practice was halted after several diplomats were fired. Siles said.

Businessmen claim the biggest single outlet for visas for Chinese nationals was the Panamanian consulate in Hong Kong, which, according to Hong Kong immigration records obtained by the Associated Press, issued about 7,000 last year.

The consulate was run by Ciro Noriega, the cousin of deposed strongman Manuel Noriega, but he has submitted his resignation. Panamanian trade official Martin Palacios said that any illegal activity occurred in Panama and not in Hong Kong.

South Korea has been a recent popular destination for Chinese and other Asians, even though Beijing has no official relations with Seoul.

One country, Bolivia, has acknowledged the sales.

Bolivian diplomats were

Japan voters still in a fix

Campaign in final phase

TOKYO, Feb 10, (Reuters): Embattled Prime Minister

Toshiki Kaifu slammed the opposition Socialists' "irresponsible" tax policies today as polls showed almost one Japanese voter in three still has not decided how to vote on February 18.

With the general election campaign entering its final week, Kaifu went on the offensive during a stumping tour of western Japan in hopes of convincing the "undecided" to back his Liberal Democratic Party.

For the first time since the LDP's formation in the 1950s, the party faces the possibility that it will lose its majority in the powerful lower house, a replay of the upper house defeat it suffered last July.

Kaifu directed his heaviest fire at the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), the largest opposition group, and its plan to reintroduce indirect taxes abolished last year.

"Even the other opposition parties are against this plan," he told voters in a town near Osaka. "Is it possible that you are going to hand over a heavy responsibility (to a party) that is irresponsible?"

JSP leader Takako Doi's recent proposal to abolish an unpopular three per cent sales tax and reinstate the commodity tax has become a major election issue which is further dividing an already fragmented opposition.

The Democratic Socialist Party, one of the JSP's potential coalition partners if the LDP loses its majority, has publicly questioned Doi's tax plan.

The Socialists are not fielding enough candidates to stand a chance of winning outright victory, but have said they would seek to rule with other non-communist parties. With just one week to go, all the signs were that the election would be very close.

The Sankei Shimbun newspaper released a survey today that showed 31.3 per cent of 3,000 voters it polled across Japan would vote for the LDP.

But a combined 33.6 per cent said they would back one of the opposition parties, with 21.9 per cent throwing their support to JSP candidates.

Another survey on Friday also pointed to voter uncertainty. A leading economic daily, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, reported that 32.4 per cent of some 6,300 voters nationwide said in telephone interviews they had yet to decide which party or candidate to support.



Kaifu: on the hustings



Reunited at last

Sok Il-Su (right), a resident from Soviet Far East island of Sakhalin, embraces his sister Sok Bong-Yi after they were reunited at Seoul's Gimpo airport. A

S. Korean plane returned from Sakhalin bringing back 120 ethnic Koreans for family reunions after more than decades. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hun Sen rejects Khmer peace bid

Counter offer made

BANGKOK, Feb 10, (UPI): Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen rejected a Khmer Rouge proposal on upcoming peace talks and a rebel leader said the opposition group may boycott the meeting, officials and a news agency said.

Thai government spokesman Suwit Yodmanee said rebel leader Prince Sihanouk said yesterday that Khieu Samphan, the head of the Khmer Rouge, was unwilling to attend the upcoming peace talks, scheduled for Feb 25-28 in Jakarta.

Suwit quoted Sihanouk as saying Khieu Samphan would only participate in talks if they included representatives from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — China, the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Great Britain.

The government news agency SPK quoted Hun Sen as rejecting the Khmer Rouge demand and countering with an offer to include representatives from Canada, Australia and Austria.

The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, a non-communist group

led by Sihanouk and another non-communist rebel group have waged a three-pronged resistance against the Vietnamese-backed Cambodian government for over a decade.

In recent months, Vietnamese troops have withdrawn from the country and the rebel forces have reportedly captured extensive territory along the Thai border.

The planned peace talks were originally to include representatives from the Cambodian resistance groups, Vietnam, Laos and the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

In another development, loyal Cambodian government troops pursued and fought with 700 Khmer Rouge soldiers who looted civilian properties and seized boats, a senior Thai navy officer said today.

Rear Admiral Sumrit Chuenmanut, chief of staff of the Thai border defence command, said the Phnom Penh government ordered a number of its troops to pursue Khmer Rouge soldiers who briefly took over Koh Kong, the country's second-largest port on Tuesday.

S. Korea alliance protested

SEOUL, Feb 10, (AP): Hundreds of students shouting anti-government and anti-US slogans fought riot police today with firebombs and rocks to protest the creation of a new governing party.

Shouting "crush the conservative dictatorship," about 700 students rushed out of Seoul's Joong Ang University and pelted riot police with hundreds of firebombs and rocks.

About 620 riot police stopped the students at the school's main gate, firing tear gas. No police figures on injuries and arrests were available.

The fighting erupted after about 1,000 riot police sealed off Korea University in eastern Seoul to block an anti-government rally involving radical students from major schools in the capital.

Before clashing with police, the students, who had gathered at the school by evading police checks in the streets, burned a symbol of the new governing Democratic Liberal Party.

Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil. In leaflets scattered today, the students claimed the merger was instigated by the United States to establish a pro-US government in South Korea. They also demanded the immediate withdrawal of US troops based in South Korea under a mutual defence pact and shouted anti-US slogans.

Chinese journalist Dai allowed visitors

BEIJING, Feb 10, (AP): A prominent Chinese journalist who was arrested eight months ago for supporting pro-democracy student protesters has been allowed a visit from his family, his daughter said yesterday.

Dai Qing's husband and daughter visited her for the first time at Qincheng prison on the outskirts of Beijing late last month, just before the lunar new year, China's most important holiday.

Dai, a reporter for the Guangming Daily, a newspaper for intellectuals, is one of China's leading journalists, well-known for her critical and outspoken reporting on political, environmental and feminist issues.

The daughter, Wang Xiaojie, denied a report in the Hong Kong press that Dai had been released from prison and placed under house arrest.

Authorities told the family that the investigation of Dai's

case had recently been completed but that she would continue to be held under "guardianship," Wang said, adding that the family had no idea when Dai might be released.

Dai joined other journalists last spring in calling for guarantees of greater press freedoms, and on May 14, fearing a crackdown, she pleaded with student demonstrators to leave Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Dai publicly resigned from the Communist Party on June 4 after troops entered Beijing and occupied the square, killing hundreds and perhaps thousands of unarmed civilians in the process.

She was taken from her home by security forces on July 13.

Wang said her mother seemed well during their visit and appeared to be holding up emotionally. She said Dai did not appear to have been beaten and was not handcuffed or restrained during their one-hour meeting in a visitors room.

JANUARY 1990

Moscow raises stakes on German unity as Kohl flies in



Kohl (right) is greeted by Shevardnadze. (Reuters wirephoto)

MOSCOW, Feb 10. (Reuters): The Soviet Union raised the stakes for German unity today as Chancellor Helmut Kohl flew to Moscow by saying East and West Germany should be neutral once they merge.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told a news conference German neutrality, a plan rejected by Bonn, was "a good old idea that first arose in the 1950s" and had always been central to Moscow's European policies.

"I think this is the most rational and most correct approach," Shevardnadze said before heading for the airport to meet Kohl, who will have talks with Kremlin leaders aimed at calming Soviet fears of a resurgent German superpower.

Reporting the chancellor's arrival, the official Soviet news agency Tass said the first words the two exchanged showed the great mutual interest in the meeting at a time of major political change in the centre of Europe.

Tass said Kohl would meet President Mikhail Gorbachev later for talks expected to

focus on German reunification, noting that both East and West Germany were now in favour of a united state.

"The Soviet-West German talks are expected to clarify the position of the sides," the official agency added.

Bonn and its western allies have rejected the neutrality plan, an idea first proposed by Josef Stalin and revived by East Germany's Prime Minister Hans Modrow last week.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, accompanying Kohl on the hastily-arranged visit, countered with a plan for a united Germany within Nato but without any western troops on the territory of the now collapsing East German state.

Kohl will also visit Paris and Washington later this month and London in March to reassure those other World War Two victors about German unity.

He will meet Modrow in Bonn on Tuesday — an encounter Shevardnadze said today would be "of extreme importance" — to discuss practical steps towards unity, looming

ever larger as 2,000 people cross the border to the West daily.

The hardest job will be in the Soviet Union, which lost at least 20 million people during World War Two and long saw Germany's division as insurance that war would not come again.

"We have been for the unity of the German nation from the beginning, but the neutrality principle has always been central to our thinking," said Shevardnadze, who accepts unity will come but appears to take a harder line than Gorbachev.

Several speakers, including Politburo conservative Yegor Ligachev, also voiced concern about a robust reunited Germany during a party plenum in Moscow this week.

The foreign minister left some leeway for Kohl, who meets Gorbachev later today and returns home tomorrow.

"There must be a solution to the problem which does not contradict general European interests," he said. "There could be various solutions."

Romania radio, TV chief resigns

BUCHAREST, Feb 10. (AP): Romania's embattled chief of broadcasting said today he was resigning because of intensifying "political conflicts" over the freedom of state-run television.

Opposition members have accused the revolutionary government of using TV as a political weapon. It has been one of the key issues as Romania prepares for its first free multiparty elections since World War II.

Broadcasting chief Aurel Dragos Munteanu said his goal had been to promote freedom of information, and he worried that Romanians had been so poisoned by the legacy of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu that they looked for "betrayal and hatred" in every word, even those spoken sincerely.

On Jan 29, Munteanu resigned as chief spokesman of the ruling council of the National Salvation Front in response to criticism by the opposition.

But almost daily demonstrations outside broadcasting headquarters since then also demanded his resignation as president of Romanian radio and television, saying he had too many ties to the Front, which has decided to contest the elections in May.

Protesters demanded that the freedom won during December's revolution which toppled Ceausescu be transferred to the TV screen.

Munteanu's letter of resignation, published today on the front page of major newspapers, drew bigger headlines than Friday's first meeting of the new council of national unity, which will run Romania until elections.

In what was billed as perhaps the first democratically made decision in 40 years, the new council of national unity had agreed to expand from 180 to 259 members to provide a broad base for the new interim government.

The outgoing National Salvation Front agreed to the coalition government after protests of its decision to field candidates in the election. The Front, which included many communist party veterans, had ruled without opposition participation.

The consensus to increase the new body's membership came after more than four hours of debate at the former national assembly building.

Interim President Ion Iliescu, who led the outgoing Front's ruling council, presided over the meeting. Election of the new council president was apparently put off, with Iliescu a strong favourite.

"This first meeting, which was quite heated, led to consensus and a final list of council members," Iliescu said at the end of the 7 1/2-hour session.

An earlier decision to increase the council to 241 members was expanded to given even greater representation.

The assembly building is being used for the first time since the uprising against Ceausescu, who was overthrown Dec 22 and executed three days later. The council agreed to meet again Tuesday.

The first four hours of debate Friday centered on whether nine new parties registered in the last week should be given seats and on questions regarding the seating of ethnic groups.

The World Health Organisation is planning a campaign to halt the spread of Aids in Eastern Europe, where authorities have been reluctant to regard it as a health problem, officials said in Geneva yesterday.

Superpowers agree to destroy poison gas

Progress on N-accord reported: Baker arrives in Sofia

MOSCOW, Feb 10. (Agencies): The United States and the Soviet Union promised today to sign an agreement to destroy most of their chemical weapons and announced major progress towards a sweeping accord on strategic nuclear arms.

US officials were jubilant that a three-day visit to Moscow by Secretary of State James Baker had cleared the way for a series of arms control deals to be signed at next June's superpower summit in the United States.

A joint statement said the superpowers would work out a chemical

weapons (CW) agreement "including... the destruction of the bulk of their CW stocks to equal low levels."

"They will proceed with the objective of completing and signing such an agreement at the June 1990 summit meeting" between US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, it said.

Baker said the deal closely mirrored a proposal by Bush last year that both sides destroy 80 per cent of their stockpiles immediately and later destroy all but one or two per cent after a 40-nation convention is concluded in Geneva.

Only the United States and the Soviet Union admit possessing poison gas, but US officials say more than 20 states are able to produce what has been dubbed "the poor man's atom bomb."

The statement pledged the two countries to ensure that all such states adhered to the Geneva convention which would ban production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. Officials in Geneva expect the accord to be ready within two years.

Later in the day, Baker arrived in Sofia for talks with new Bulgarian leaders.

He was met at the airport by his Bulgarian counterpart Boiko Dimitrov, the Bulgarian news agency BTA said.

In Moscow, a separate statement on Baker's visit reported progress on several technical but vital issues that have been holding up a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start) aimed at halving superpower arsenals of long-range missiles and bombers.

It said Moscow and Washington were resolved to settle all major issues by the June summit "in order to allow signature of the treaty by the end of the year."

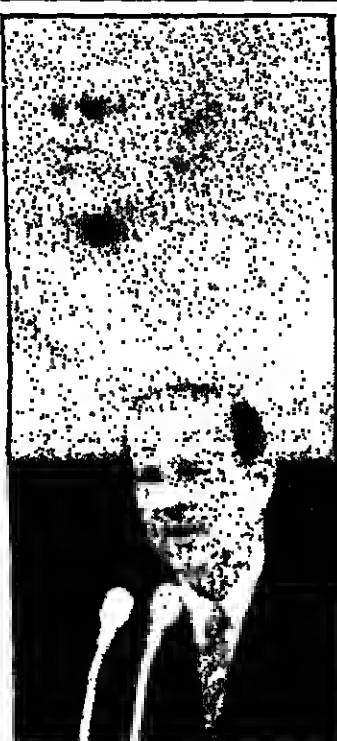
A senior US arms negotiator said the Moscow talks had "broken the back of the Start agreement. There is no question in my mind that we will have a Start agreement and we will meet the President's (Bush's) targets."

Start negotiators in Geneva are already agreed each side should have a maximum 6,000 warheads aboard no more than 1,600 delivery vehicles.

The progress reported at Baker's Moscow talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze included:

■ All issues on air-launched cruise missiles (ALCMS) were agreed except the range definition, where the United States has wanted above 1,500 km (930 miles) and the Soviet Union above 600 km (375 miles). This suggested the two sides had agreed on how to determine how many ALCMS a bomber was carrying.

■ Sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCMS) will be dealt with by



Baker delivering his speech. (Reuters wirephoto)

"politically binding declarations" outside the Start treaty. This apparently was a victory for Washington which said it was impossible to verify SLCMs and wanted each side to only declare how many it possessed. Baker said a dispute over range definition existed here too.

■ There will be limits on non-deployed "spare" missiles that have been flight-tested from a mobile launcher, but not on other types.

■ There was agreement on ways to ensure that data being radioed back by missiles under flight test is not coded to elude surveillance by the other side.

In a measure designed to build up confidence, Shevardnadze told a news conference today that Soviet experts would be allowed to visit US radar stations at Flyingdales, England, and Thule, Greenland, and US experts could visit Soviet ones.

The statement said that

Soviet reform

Factory may be owned

MOSCOW, Feb 10. (AP): The platform of changes approved by the Communist Party leadership this week includes accepting private ownership of factories, says a top aide to President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Although small-scale private enterprise already is permitted, allowing private factories would be a major break from Marxist doctrine in place since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution.

The aide, Nikolai Petrakov, also said in an interview with the official news agency Tass that he personally favours denationalising state businesses and the possibility of allowing foreign firms to buy stock in Soviet enterprises.

He said the economic section of the platform is based on "many forms of ownership of the means of production and other things, including co-operative and individual property."

In Marxist terminology, "means of production" are factories and equipment. The party's policy-making central committee gave Gorbachev nearly unanimous approval Wednesday for a proposal to remove an article from the Soviet constitution that gives the communists a legal monopoly on power.

The platform thereby opened the possibility of alternative political parties. But officials have revealed little about the changes in communist economic policy approved by the party leadership.

Gorbachev said yesterday he plans to press for more reforms once the Communist Party has formally relinquished its monopoly on power, which will not happen until a full congress of party delegates meets in late June.

Gorbachev said yesterday that he had achieved everything he set out to do at this week's three-day central committee meeting.

"Once we have solidified this phase, we will move on," Gorbachev told reporters before heading into a meeting with US Secretary of State James Baker, who was in Moscow for talks on arms reduction proposals.

negotiators had also forged ahead on two agreements, unrelated to Start, to limit the size of underground nuclear tests to 150 kilotons. US officials forecast that these two would be ready for the June summit.

On conventional forces, Gorbachev accepted yesterday the Nato proposal tabled the previous day at East-West troop cut talks in Vienna that US and Soviet forces in Europe, excluding Soviet territory, be cut to 195,000 each.

But he rejected Nato's claim to an extra 30,000 US troops in countries outside the central sector, saying common ceilings must apply — either 195,000 or 225,000.

In what appeared to be a compromise, Baker and Shevardnadze agreed that a summit meeting of all 35 states involved in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) be held this year.

This would sign the conventional forces accord that Nato and the Warsaw Pact are working on in Vienna, but would not, as Moscow had sought, replace a full CSCE summit planned for 1992 in Helsinki. It would merely prepare for that summit.

The statement gave no suggestion of major advances on regional conflicts, although Baker and Shevardnadze pledged support for peace efforts in Latin America, Korea, Cambodia, the Middle East and southern Africa.

It said, however, they had a "constructive discussion" on Afghanistan, where Moscow's military aid to the Kabul government and Washington's aid to the mujahideen rebels have led to the continuation of a bloody civil war.

Washington recently dropped its stance that Soviet-backed Afghan President Najibullah must step down before peace talks began with the mujahideen.

Berlin film festival

For the first time in its 40-year history the Berlin film festival is being held on both sides of the city, giving many East Berliners their first chance to rub elbows with international film stars.

The prestigious event opened Friday in West Berlin with the film "Street Magnolias," which stars some of the industry's most famous actresses — Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Shirley Maclain and Daryl Hannah.

For four decades the festival has been held in West Berlin.

But now, with the Berlin Wall reduced to a relic, films will be shown in East Berlin as well.

The 12-day festival will feature about 700 works from all over the world. In the picture above Julia Roberts (left) and Daryl Hannah at the festival. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sofia party faces challenge

Three quit leadership

SOFIA, Feb. 10. (AP): The ruling Communist Party suffered another setback yesterday when three reformers announced they had quit the party leadership, a week after being elected to the newly created Supreme Council.

The state news agency BTA reported that all three representatives of the Alternative Socialist Organisation, a reformist faction within the party, had left the 153-member Supreme Council.

They were identified as Koprivka Chervenkov, Kiril Vassilev and Ivan Nikolov.

The resignations thwarted efforts to give the party a more progressive public image, and it now faces an even graver challenge.

Nikolai Vassilev, leader of ASO and Kiril Vassilev's son, on Wednesday told the Associated Press he expected two-thirds of delegates to

an ASO congress on Feb 11 to vote to leave the Communist party and reform along social democratic lines as an alternative Socialist Party.

During a four-day party congress ending last Friday, new party chief Alexander Lilov and other officials said the party was embarking on a road of "socialist democracy."

Word of the resignations came only a day after Bulgaria's new Premier Andrei Lukin presented to Parliament the country's first all-communist government, admitting failure to convince the democratic opposition to join it.

The agrarian party, for decades a docile ally of the communists in the cabinet, refused to take part in Lukin's government, saying it would not make sense to be in a "government of national concord" that does not include the opposition.

The three reformers had all been nominated by the party congress for the Supreme Council but failed to get enough votes for membership in the body, originally limited to 131 members.

In a compromise solution designed to include reformers in party leadership, the Supreme Council was expanded.

Twenty-two members were added, including Chervenkov, Vassilev and Nikolov, without excluding others ranked ahead of them on a list of potential candidates.

Chervenkov announced her resignation Feb 6, while the other two said they were stepping down yesterday in a declaration published in the Communist Party daily Rabotnichesko Delo.

BTA said their statement "categorically objects to" the "cadre compromise" made in expanding the Supreme Council.

Laying bread on table will be a difficult job for East Europe

A lot of personal sacrifice and Western aid required to make reforms work

FRANKFURT, West Germany, Feb 10. (AP): In Eastern Europe, ideology has once again come face-to-face with hard reality. Making a revolution is often easier than fulfilling its goals.

After overthrowing four decades of rigid communist rule, the people of Eastern Europe are facing enormous problems.

The years of centrally planned systems and communist mismanagement have left East European economies in such ruins that a lot of help from the West and plenty of sacrifices of their own will be necessary before the countries can stand on their own.

While the problems are gigantic and many people are pessimistic, the pro-democracy drive received a tremendous boost when communist leaders in the Soviet Union on Wednesday endorsed President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal that the party give up its monopoly on power.

The decision closed a circle that began with Gorbachev's reform policies of glasnost and perestroika, allowing East European countries to go their own way.

But it will take years before their economies are sound and competitive. During the adjust-

ment to a free-market system, the governments will have to deal with unemployment, bankruptcies, inflation and massive debts, even an atrophied work ethic.

Experts say the environmental problems in several East European countries are bordering on catastrophe and will take years and billions of dollars to clean up.

An accelerating exodus of skilled workers averaging about 1,800 a day, strikes and absenteeism are driving East Germany to the brink of economic collapse.

More than 400,000 East Germans have resettled in West Germany in a year. West Germany, struggling to cope with the rate of new arrivals, has been forced to step in to bail out the faltering neighbour with infusion of aid and plans for a quick monetary union. Unification may come faster than anyone anticipated.

Poland owes \$40 billion to Western creditors, Hungary and Yugoslavia about \$20 billion each. Yugoslavia's inflation rates is more than 1,500 per cent annually.

Solidarity Union leader Lech Walesa acknowledges the shock-therapy plan to tame the inflation and transform Poland into a free-

market economy is painful and says it needs a lot of Western aid.

"We are like a car with four wheels running in different directions, moving fast but slipping backward. Nothing can be done from inside the car," Walesa told a reporter in Gdansk recently.

Poland was the forerunner in the democratic transformation when it became the first East European country to get a non-communist government. In 1990, many eyes will be on Poland again to see how much progress it makes toward economic recovery.

The plan, which went into effect on Jan 1, decontrolled prices, foreign exchange and centrally allocated industrial inputs. It is based on a restrictive budget policy designed to bring down inflation within six months and is coupled with a tight wage policy.

It is the most radical, daring economic reform programme ever attempted in Eastern Europe.

Yugoslavia's similar plan includes a six-month wage freeze, strict monetary controls, closing down of unprofitable companies and liberalised imports to provide more competition to domestic industries. The dinar was

made convertible at a fixed rate to the West German mark.

Both Poland and Yugoslavia were advised on their programmes by Jeffrey Sachs, a professor of economics at Harvard University, one of the most prestigious colleges in the United States.

Although the wage freeze already has triggered a fresh wave of strikes in Yugoslavia, Sachs predicts the work stoppages will gradually ease as cheaper imports bring down domestic prices.

The political focus will be on free elections that are scheduled throughout the region this year.

Also, Poland and Czechoslovakia have asked the Soviets to withdraw their troops, and Budapest has requested an accelerated pace of the pullout from Hungary.

Free parliamentary elections are scheduled in East Germany, Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia, and local elections in Poland are expected to be moved up to April.

In the Soviet Union, all 15 republics will hold local elections that will offer a choice of candidates. Bulgaria also is expected to hold free elections although the date has not been

fixed.

In non-aligned Yugoslavia, the communists are expected to compete with other groups in parliamentary elections that could take place as early as April.

Although it broke away from the Soviet bloc in 1948 and for years followed its own model of more liberal communism, Yugoslavia has fallen behind in the pace of political reforms going on in other East European countries.

Like the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia is a country with a delicate ethnic balance and different republics where nationalist feelings could jeopardise the transition to democracy.

The Baltic states in the Soviet Union are pushing for independence, strong nationalist movements have emerged in the republics of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova, which borders Romania.

The western-most Yugoslav republic of Slovenia also is toying with secession and its communists have broken away from the national party organisation after a deep split between reformers and hardliners.

A 10-year drive for more autonomy by

Yugoslavia's ethnic Albanians, most of them Muslims, in the southern province of Kosovo exploded in another round of violence at the end of January that killed nearly 30 people.

Neighbouring Albania remains the last bastion of Stalinism in Eastern Europe, but is showing cautious signs of emerging from its self-imposed isolation. Reports in Yugoslav and Greek newspapers of recent disturbances in Albania have been strongly denied by Tirana.

Thousands of Bulgarians have demonstrated against restoring the rights of Muslim ethnic Turks.

Such outbreaks of nationalism and ethnic fighting are reviving fears of instability that once made the Balkans the powder keg of Europe. They could sap the energies needed for an orderly transition to democracy and take precious time away from pressing economic problems.

The communists have lost their constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power in East European countries, but they still have powerful assets that give them an organisational advantage over the opposition in the campaign leading to the elections.

Kuwaiti students visit Palestinian camps

Contributions distributed in Jordan

AMMAN, Feb 10, (Kuna): A delegation of the National Student Union of Kuwait University headed by the deputy president of the Union for Scientific Affairs Abdullah Al Sagr commenced their field trips to Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan today.

The delegation is to visit Al Ghazza and Al Hosen refugee camps in order to inspect the situations of their residents and distribute the contributions of the Kuwaiti people to the Palestinian refugees.

The five-day schedule of the union also consists of tours to the regions of Al Homma and the Jordan Valley, bordering the occupied territory as well as a visit to the Blind Society and the Kuwaiti embassy headquarters in the Jordanian capital.

The National Student Union of Kuwait University make annual visits to Jordan to carry the joint feelings of the Kuwaiti people to their Palestinian brothers, and to distribute the contributions of Kuwaitis to low income refugee families as well as to invest in society welfare projects that provide a source of income to families enabling them to take care of its members.

Amir in Oman for talks

(Continued from Page 1)

United Nations sponsored ceasefire in the Gulf war.

The officials said that the Amir and Qaboos will discuss joint economic projects and ways to boost trade.

Oil exports are the backbone of the GCC countries' economies and all six are working to diversify and form a common market.

The Amir later today visited Al Halali historical tower and Oman's military museum.

The Amir was accompanied on the two visits by personal representatives of Qaboos Sayed Thuwaini Ben Shihab and Oman's Interior Minister Badr Ben Saoud Ben Harib.

Writing in the visitors book, the Amir marvelled at Oman's traditional architecture and ingenuity representing part of the sultanate's glorious history.

Qaboos will host a dinner banquet tonight in honour of the Amir.

Meanwhile, Kuna learnt that the first round of official Kuwaiti-Omani talks, co-chaired by the Amir and Sultan Qaboos will be held on the third day of the Amir's visit.

Increased facilities at Paci

THE director-general of the Public Authority for Civil Information Faisal Al Shaiji has said that the authority has started to introduce more facilities into its public services, particularly the renewal of ID-cards sent by mail or the phone-in inquiry service.

The authority is planning to circulate a public questionnaire to find out the public response to the newly introduced services to estimate the existing performance level. The resultant feedback is intended to detect the existing negatives still present in the work system, the official said.

He added that a special committee had been formed to consider public proposals and complaints and that the replies would be mailed to the person concerned to his address.

The authority was preparing to introduce a new service whereby people would be notified in time of the approaching expiry date of their ID-cards.

Meanwhile, the authority has sent notifications to the parents of new born babies who should have registered their children within 60 days of their birth. The penalty for delay would be enforced on the parents, Shaiji said.

Saudis to contribute to Aden hospital

NICOSIA, Feb 10, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia, long at odds with Marxist South Yemen, is now spending millions of dollars to build medical and other facilities in the impoverished country, the Saudi Press Agency has reported.

"The kingdom and the Democratic Republic of (South) Yemen are looking for a better future through the implementation of development programmes on various economic levels," is quoted Mohammed Abdullah Al Saghir, vice-president of the Saudi Development Fund, as saying.

Relations between the conservative oil-rich kingdom and the neighbouring Soviet-style government in Aden have long been tense.

Airline passengers increase

AIRLINE traffic at Kuwait International Airport registered an increase in 1989 compared to 1988, according to the annual statistical report of the airport and added that the report anticipated a boost in movement during 1990 to exceed 3 million passengers.

The increase in airline movement came about as a result of permitting additional airline companies to operate and the increase in journeys on some sectors.



W. German envoy at Kuna

The West German Ambassador to Kuwait Claus Soenksen visited Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) headquarters recently where he met with the Board Chairman and Director General, Barjes Hmoud Al Barjes.

The two officials reviewed together the relationship between the two countries and events in the European continent.

Delegation at chamber

Co-ops and merchants asked to resolve problems amicably

THE Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Sager received at his office a delegation from Kuwait's Foodstuff Merchants and Manufacturers Union who explained the problems facing the union in relation to the co-operative sector and the adverse effects of such relations on the members of the union and consumers, a local daily reported.

The delegation which was headed by the chairman of the union, Abdullah Al Buijan called for the protection of commercial tracks by the Co-operative Societies Union and to alleviate control measures imposed by Kuwait Municipality on foodstuff merchants and manufacturers.

He warned against the perils that might be caused by the Kuwait Municipality decision to grant the municipality foodstuff inspector two per cent of the value of the fine paid by any violating merchant and said that the union called on the chairman of the chamber to rescind the decision as it is tantamount to conflict of interest.

However, he praised the co-operation evidenced by the Director-General of Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Sabab Jaber Al Ali to merchants, particularly towards the revision of regulations governing the foodstuff trade.

Meanwhile, Buijan, disclosed that the joint committee consisting of representatives from his union and the Co-operative Societies Union which had been formed to study the profit margin had achieved no results, although the committee had been formed a year and half ago.

He called on the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to intervene and cancel the decision organising licences at Al Ardya Area.

Meanwhile, Sager told the delegation that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry does realise the union's grievances and that the joint economic committee adopted by the state had included the

necessary recommendations urging the co-operative societies to be flexible in their dealings with the commercial sector.

On the other hand, the official referred to the report prepared by the Chamber on co-operative societies in Kuwait which had been submitted to HH the Crown Prince and Premier last October and said that it clarified that the sector had been established for social, national and economic considerations. These considerations constituted the right justifications for the support extended by the government to this sector. He said that the government has a significant role in developing the co-operative sector, the official said.

He added that the sector was growing, but without any serious attempts to integration and co-ordinate activities with other economic sectors in the country. This will eventually result in adverse effects on the national, commercial and industrial sectors and affect fair competition in general.

He called on societies to settle due amounts to merchants and manufacturers on value date and called on co-operative societies not to impose unfair conditions on these merchants who call for prompt payment.

Meanwhile, Sager said the co-operative societies should not be given import licences except in some cases where the relevant licence should be justified by the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

He called on the co-operative societies to deal with merchants and manufacturers on an equal basis.

In conclusion, Sager has called for a forming of a specialised permanent committee to undertake co-operation and integration between the co-operative sector and the commercial one.

He referred that the proposed committee should group representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Co-operative Societies Union and the Foodstuff Merchants and Manufacturers Union.

From the courts

Illegal aliens jailed

THE criminal court has sentenced two men and a third in abetment to three months in jail with hard labour and subsequent deportation and to collective customs fine of KD450.

The court heard that the two present suspects were caught by a police patrol trying to drive out of the country in a car which had stolen Kuwaiti number plates.

The suspects admitted to having entered the country by car illegally carrying on board 25 sheep heads to sell in Kuwait and to buy electronic equipment with the money and sneak back out of the country.

The suspects had no passports and admitted that the car belonged to the third man who sneaked out from Kuwait on the same day of their arrest, and that the second man offered money to the car driver to get him in and out of Kuwait to visit his family. The suspect had on an earlier occasion sneaked in and out of the country even though he didn't have a passport.

KUWAIT Criminal Court sentenced seven men to different imprisonment terms ranging from two and ten years with hard labour in addition to fining six of the convicts KD1,000 on the charge of smuggling and trafficking in liquor. The convicts were also charged with possessing three shotguns and ammunition.

Security men were able to locate one of the convicts and struck a deal with him to buy three bottles of whiskey. After the convict was arrested he guided security men to the rest of the convicts and the place where the contraband was hidden. Security men then obtained permission to search a shed located in Qailiya area and found 23 cartons of whiskey along with three shotguns and ammunition. The convicts were arrested and taken to the police station after confessing to their crime.

Kenana arrives on three days visit

KUWAIT, Feb 10, (Kuna): Tanzanian Deputy Defence Minister Abdul Rahman Omar Kenana arrived here today on a three-day official visit.

The Tanzanian official told Kuna that his visit aims at deepening relations between his country and Kuwait, particularly in the military co-operation field.

He was received on arrival by Defence Undersecretary Faisal Ali Al Dawoud and other ministry officials.

Kenana will meet with Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber and the Army Chief of Staff Major-General Meziad Al Sana.

Talks will be held between the Tanzanian official and Faisal Al Dawoud and Deputy Chief of Staff Major-General Jaber Al Khaled Al Sabah.

Romanian exhibition

UNDER the patronage of Faisal Abdel Razziq Al Khaled, Minister of Commerce and Industry, a Romanian Trade Exhibition will take place at Kuwait International Hotel from Feb 12-18.

After the inauguration ceremony, which will take place at mezzanine floor at 10.00 am, HE Ioan Emil Vasiliu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade of Romania will meet with the Kuwaiti press to speak about the new economic priorities of Romania and possibilities to develop and enlarge the economic, financial and commercial relations.

The exhibition will feature a wide range of goods and services from Romania, including textiles, foodstuffs, and handicrafts. It is expected to attract a large number of visitors and business deals.

Approb to celebrate Pakistan Resolution

APPROB Executive Board, in a meeting held recently, decided to form its steering committee to prepare for a special celebration for commemorating 50 years of Pakistan Resolution.

The resolution passed in 1940 in the historical city of Lahore culminated in final realisation of the dreams of Muslims to gain independence from nearly a century of colonial rule. This resolution marked the beginning of the birth of a nascent nation.

The commemoration will be highlighted with a seminar on Pakistan movement followed by a reception from Approb to help various community projects where urgent community action is required.

To initiate a sense of direction amongst the upcoming generation of Pakistan, an essay competition was also decided to be organised.

Approb has also requested Pakistanis interested in supporting Approb projects to contact Approb officials or its executive board at P.O. Box 2351 Salmiya, 22024 Salmiya Kuwait. Tel: 2425315, 2425316; Fax: (000965) 5323751.

Rumaithiya residents decry vandalism by delinquents

A LOCAL daily has interviewed a number of residents in Rumaithiya who have complained of the different inconveniences that their residential area suffered from, varying between fluctuating co-op prices, lack of landscape services, presence of construction debris and others.

Nabil Al Fayez said that the level of cleanliness differed from one block to another, which was attributable to the attention paid by the residents of each and every block to this matter at their own block only.

He elaborated that some would dump their garbage at convenient times before the refuse-collecting municipal truck came to gather the garbage, while others cared less about dumping refuse in time for regular collection.

Khaled Mohammad said that the existing prices at the local co-op were OK, but they tend to vary considerably and noticeably from one branch to another, adding that the Shamiya Co-op had the lowest-priced commodities, which was ascribed to the attention of the society's board of directors, which paid special attention to making consumer commodities available at the cheapest possible prices.

He pointed out that the area was clearly under-landscaped, however the remarkable attention by families to private front-house gardens was the only sign of natural beauty available.

He said that youths were a regular public nuisance for they stayed outdoors late, littered streets, smeared walls with scribbles and doodles, stole cars and shoplifted, while others harassed girls; all because of the harrassed police patrols deployed in the area.

Library

He also said that there was only one public library in the area that provided exclusive services to women, which was a commendable feature, however the area requires a similar, larger library for men where youths could read and spend their time usefully.

Abdullah Al Rashed said that the area had an urgent need for a number of vital facilities and services, such as the overnight operation of the local clinic which closed at ten forcing families to seek medical attention at hospitals or clinics in different locations, which mostly were located far away and consequently inconvenient for residents.

He pointed out that garbage littered the streets, and the reason was the failure of cleaning staff to collect all garbage, which they picked up some and left some, which called for regular supervision of their services.

He stressed the need for increasing the police patrols in the area to put an end to irresponsible youth and frequent acts of public vandalism, adding that entertainment facilities and youth centres were inadequate.

Demurrage free zone to be set up at ports

Border centres contracts awarded

THE director-general of the Kuwait General Customs Department Ibrahim Al Ghanim stated that a special demurrage free zone will shortly be set up at ports for lengthy storage (two years), and that tenders will be invited from local consultants for this purpose.

He told a local daily that a ministerial law would be issued for this purpose within the coming few days, and that massive customs changes will be made soon, particularly in the field of transit and provisional admission. A number of steps would follow to de-regulate certain constraints believed constituting major obstacles in the customs system.

Three main customs areas would be constructed in Abdali, Nuwaiseeb and Salmi, within the framework of building customs centres at border towns. These centres would be linked to the departments of passports, security, health, and veterinary diseases, information and housing and various other agencies concerned with the documentation of customs procedures in the country, the official said.

He added that the project construction will start sometime this year and would last for three years. The project is to cost KD30 million. The contract has been awarded to two local companies, the Kuwait Refrigeration Company and the Public Stores Company.

He said that customs officers were able to seize in a single operation one and half kilos of heroin, six and half kilos of hashish and half a million hallucinatory pills.

Vacancies

He said that during the last meeting of the Arab boycott office it was decided to lift the ban on a number of international companies, while new companies were added to the list of partially boycotted companies.

He pointed out that during the same meeting another decision was adopted providing for offering international companies better opportunities, facilities and privileges to set up their factories

in Arab countries instead of boycotting these companies.

He said that the department currently has vacancies for 270 employees for operation in the field of computer programming and accounting and 405 for operation in the fields of documentation, training, inspection, security and safety.

The department had no intention to raise the customs duty percentage and services were charged no fees while 70 per cent of foodstuffs were exempted from duties, Al Ghanim said.

He added that the existing Kuwait customs law was part of a unified Arab law and that it is regularly updated to meet the requirements of new developments. Currently, efforts are underway to change clauses on transit and provisional admission in a bid to contribute to the reactivation of the existing economic situation.

He said that steps had been taken to use bounds in the customs inspection process and that a cargo of police hounds had been already imported.

He said that during the last meeting of the Arab boycott office it was decided to lift the ban on a number of international companies, while new companies were added to the list of partially boycotted companies.

He pointed out that during the same meeting another decision was adopted providing for offering international companies better opportunities, facilities and privileges to set up their factories

in Arab countries instead of boycotting these companies.

He said that the department currently has vacancies for 270 employees for operation in the field of computer programming and accounting and 405 for operation in the fields of documentation, training, inspection, security and safety.

The department had no intention to raise the customs duty percentage and services were charged no fees while 70 per cent of foodstuffs were exempted from duties, Al Ghanim said.

He added that the existing Kuwait customs law was part of a unified Arab law and that it is regularly updated to meet the requirements of new developments. Currently, efforts are underway to change clauses on transit and provisional admission in a bid to contribute to the reactivation of the existing economic situation.

He said that steps had been taken to use bounds in the customs inspection process and that a cargo of police hounds had been already imported.

He said that during the last meeting of the Arab boycott office it was decided to lift the ban on a number of international companies, while new companies were added to the list of partially boycotted companies.

He pointed out that during the same meeting another decision was adopted providing for offering international companies better opportunities, facilities and privileges to set up their factories

in Arab countries instead of boycotting these companies.

He said that the department currently has vacancies for 270 employees for operation in the field of computer programming and accounting and 405 for operation in the fields of documentation, training, inspection, security and safety.

The department had no intention to raise the customs duty percentage and services were charged no fees while 70 per cent of foodstuffs were exempted from duties, Al Ghanim said.

He added that the existing Kuwait customs law was part of a unified Arab law and that it is regularly updated to meet the requirements of new developments. Currently, efforts are underway to change clauses on transit and provisional admission in a bid to contribute to the reactivation of the existing economic situation.

He said that steps had been taken to use bounds in the customs inspection process and that a cargo of police hounds had been already imported.

He said that during the last meeting of the Arab boycott office it was decided to lift the ban on a number of international companies, while new companies were added to the list of partially boycotted companies.

He pointed out that during the same meeting another decision was adopted providing for offering international companies better opportunities, facilities and privileges to set up their factories

in Arab countries instead of boycotting these companies.

He said that the department currently has vacancies for 270 employees for operation in the field of computer programming and accounting and 405 for operation in the fields of documentation, training, inspection, security and safety.

The department had no intention to raise the customs duty percentage and services were charged no fees while 70 per cent of foodstuffs were exempted from duties, Al Ghanim said.

He added that the existing Kuwait customs law was part of a unified Arab law and that it is regularly updated to meet the requirements of new developments. Currently, efforts are underway to change clauses on transit and provisional admission in a bid to contribute to the reactivation of the existing economic situation.

He said that steps had been taken to use bounds in the customs inspection process and that a cargo of police hounds had been already imported.

He said that during the last meeting of the Arab boycott office it was decided to lift the ban on a number of international companies, while new companies were added to the list of partially boycotted companies.

He pointed out that during the same meeting another decision was adopted providing for offering international companies better opportunities, facilities and privileges to set up their factories

in Arab countries instead of boycotting these companies.

tion of customs procedures in the country, the official said.

He added that the project construction will start sometime this year and would last for three years. The project is to cost KD30 million. The contract has been awarded to two local companies, the Kuwait Refrigeration Company and the Public Stores Company.

He said that customs officers were able to seize in a single operation one and half kilos of heroin, six and half kilos of hashish and half a million hallucinatory pills.

Vacancies

He said that during the last meeting of the Arab boycott office it was decided to lift the ban on a number of international companies, while new companies were added to the list of partially boycotted companies.

He pointed out that during the same meeting another decision was adopted providing for offering international companies better opportunities, facilities and privileges to set up their factories

in Arab countries instead of boycotting these companies.

He said that the department currently has vacancies for 270 employees for operation in the field of computer programming and accounting and 405 for operation in the fields of documentation, training, inspection, security and safety.

The department had no intention to raise the customs duty percentage and services were charged no fees while 70 per cent of foodstuffs were exempted from duties, Al Ghanim said.

He added that the existing Kuwait customs law was part of a unified Arab law and that it is regularly updated to meet the requirements of new developments. Currently, efforts are underway to change clauses on transit and provisional admission in a bid to contribute to the reactivation of the existing economic situation.

He said that steps had been taken to use bounds in the customs inspection process and that a cargo of police hounds had been already imported.

He said that during the last meeting of the Arab boycott office it was decided to lift the ban on a number of international companies, while new companies were added to the list of partially boycotted companies.

He pointed out that during the same meeting another decision was adopted providing for offering international companies better opportunities, facilities and privileges to set up their factories

in Arab countries instead of boycotting these companies.

He said that the department currently has vacancies for 270 employees for operation in the field of computer programming and accounting and 405 for operation in the fields of documentation, training, inspection, security and safety.

The department had no intention to raise the customs duty percentage and services were charged no fees while 70 per cent of foodstuffs were exempted from duties, Al Ghanim said.

He added that the existing Kuwait customs law was part of a unified Arab law and that it is regularly updated to meet the requirements of new developments. Currently, efforts are underway to change clauses on transit and provisional admission in a bid to contribute to the reactivation of the existing economic situation.

He said that steps had been taken to use bounds in the customs inspection process and that a cargo of police hounds had been already imported.

He said that during the last meeting of the Arab boycott office it was decided to lift the ban on a number of international companies, while new companies were added to the list of partially boycotted companies.

He pointed out that during the same meeting another decision was adopted providing for offering international companies better opportunities, facilities and privileges to set up their factories

in Arab countries instead of boycotting these companies.

He said that the department currently has vacancies for 270 employees for operation in the field of computer programming and accounting and 405 for operation in the fields of documentation, training, inspection, security and safety.

The department had no intention to raise the customs duty percentage and services were charged no fees while 70 per cent of foodstuffs were exempted from duties, Al Ghanim said.

He added that the existing Kuwait customs law was part of a unified Arab law and that it is regularly updated to meet the requirements of new developments. Currently, efforts are underway to change clauses on transit and provisional admission in a bid to contribute to the reactivation of the existing economic situation.

He said that steps had been taken to use bounds in the customs inspection process and that a cargo of police hounds had been already imported.

He said that during the last meeting of the Arab boycott office it was decided to lift the ban on a number of international companies, while new companies were added to the list of partially boycotted companies.

He pointed out that during the same meeting another decision was adopted providing for offering international companies better opportunities, facilities and privileges to set up their factories

in Arab countries instead of boycotting these companies.

He said that the department currently has vacancies for 270 employees for operation in the field of computer programming and accounting and 405 for operation in the fields of documentation, training, inspection, security and safety.

The department had no intention to raise the customs duty percentage and services were charged no fees while 70 per cent of foodstuffs were exempted from duties, Al Ghanim said.



Training symposium

In the framework of improving and strengthening co-operation and co-ordination between the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and the manpower market, the Kuwait Finance House invited Dr Ahmad Bu Zeber, the director of the Professional Development Centre at the authority to lecture at a symposium held at the Kuwait International Hotel. The symposium was opened by Sadi Othman Al Khatib, a member of officials.

Japan fostering trade competitiveness: banker

JAPAN has succeeded in restructuring its economy from the traditionally export-oriented system over the past couple of decades into an import-oriented one since the mid-eighties in a bid to reduce its enormous trade imbalance and foster trade competitiveness with its major trading partners world-wide, in particular the United States, a leading Japanese banking analyst revealed in Bahrain recently.

Keiichi Honda, the General Manager of the Economic Research Division, Bank of Tokyo, Japan said in a lecture on world and Japanese economy at the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), that Japan has undertaken major steps to boost its imports by introducing a number of schemes in recent times. He added that this was precipitated by the fact that Japan has traditionally held undue advantage over its trading partners in view of its export-oriented economy giving it substantial purchasing power, especially when the yen appreciates, thereby causing concern in the dollar-denominated market both in Japan and overseas. This factor he said gives Japan surplus revenue and increases world trade deficit in general and that of its trading allies like America and Western Europe.

Honda, who is also a board member of Bank of Tokyo, said that the Japanese Ministry of Trade and Development has given priority to boost imports by encouraging Japanese traders to adopt two key import-oriented schemes: "Development Import" and "Reversed Import".

Development Import refers to the policy when Japanese traders visit key overseas markets to become familiar with innovative and latest marketing trends so as to help them to decide how and what to manufacture back home. Reversed Import applies to Japanese goods manufactured abroad for initially international markets, but now increasingly geared for domestic market as well, explained Honda.

Honda emphasised the American dollar's relative value to world economy as the world's number one economy trades with about 150 nations. In this context the leading Japanese banker stressed the need to have a stronger dollar and a stable yen to maintain stability in world trade.

"I don't believe in strong fluctuation of the world's major currencies. This is not good for America and Japan, the world's number one and two economies respectively. Currency fluctuation is a nominal phenomenon," said Honda.

According to Honda the American currency appreciated by 43 per cent since 1985 and has since normalised, while the Japanese yen and the Deutsche mark, the Central European Monetary currency, have remained fairly stable with "nothing striking happening". On world economy Honda commented that both developed and developing nations have generated 3.5 per cent real growth since 1988. Global deficit has been reduced and currently stands at about \$100 billion. Total world inflation in 1989 stood at 20 per cent and has been forecast at around 10 per cent this year.

Meanwhile, in his introductory remarks, Abbas M. Radhi, Director of Economic Research Directorate, Bahrain Monetary Agency, reaffirmed Bahrain's importance and contribution as the region's banking and financial centre. He said the island's development programme is based on on-going diversification programmes, particularly in the service sector.

Bahrain's banking industry contributes 13.5 per cent of the country's GDP every year. It employs about 5000 people. Bahrain boasts of 52 OBU units with net assets worth \$50 billion as well as about 20 commercial banks, said Radhi. Leading officials of BMA, Bank of Tokyo as well as bankers attended Keiichi Honda's lecture, which was organised by BIBF. Director of BIBF, Albert Woodhouse hosted the event.

He said that the Japanese Ministry of Trade and Development has given priority to boost imports by encouraging Japanese traders to adopt two key import-oriented schemes: "Development Import" and "Reversed Import".

Development Import refers to the policy when Japanese traders visit key overseas markets to become familiar with innovative and latest marketing trends so as to help them to decide how and what to manufacture back home. Reversed Import applies to Japanese goods manufactured abroad for initially international markets, but now increasingly geared for domestic market as well, explained Honda.

Honda emphasised the American dollar's relative value to world economy as the world's number one economy trades with about 150 nations. In this context the leading Japanese banker stressed the need to have a stronger dollar and a stable yen to maintain stability in world trade.

"I don't believe in strong fluctuation of the world's major currencies. This is not good for America and Japan, the world's number one and two economies respectively. Currency fluctuation is a nominal phenomenon," said Honda.

According to Honda the American currency appreciated by 43 per cent since 1985 and has since normalised, while the Japanese yen and the Deutsche mark, the Central European Monetary currency, have remained fairly stable with "nothing striking happening". On world economy Honda commented that both developed and developing nations have generated 3.5 per cent real growth since 1988. Global deficit has been reduced and currently stands at about \$100 billion. Total world inflation in 1989 stood at 20 per cent and has been forecast at around 10 per cent this year.

Meanwhile, in his introductory remarks, Abbas M. Radhi, Director of Economic Research Directorate, Bahrain Monetary Agency, reaffirmed Bahrain's importance and contribution as the region's banking and financial centre. He said the island's development programme is based on on-going diversification programmes, particularly in the service sector.

Bahrain's banking industry contributes 13.5 per cent of the country's GDP every year. It employs about 5000 people. Bahrain boasts of 52 OBU units with net assets

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

EVERY noble work is at first impossible — Thomas Carlyle, Scottish writer-historian (1795-1881).

Party monopoly broken

Gorbachev's shrewd move

WARSAW, (Agencies): The Soviet Communist Party was persuaded to relinquish its monopoly on power only after President Mikhail Gorbachev saw the writing on the wall — the Berlin Wall.

With autocratic regimes falling like dominoes in Eastern Europe and their communist parties in disarray, Gorbachev had a dilemma.

The choice was difficult, but clear-cut: get the party to move over on the power shelf and make room for other political groups — as in Poland and Hungary — or face oblivion.

Whereas in Poland and Hungary the communists are still a solid part of the power network, the East German Communist Party and communist-dominated government is fighting for its life after the sudden fall from power of Erich Honecker and the rupture of the Berlin Wall.

The subsequent toppling of the communist leaders in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania — and growing popular demand that all communists get out of those governments — firmly drove home the point in a matter of weeks.

"The lesson which befell communist parties in Eastern Europe is instructive," the Polish government newspaper Rzeczpospolita said in a commentary on Thursday titled, "The crisis of perestroika."

"Wherever they were incapable of adjusting to changes, they were swept away sooner or later," it said.

Transformation

"Only in places where organised opposition forces formed in time — such as the Polish Solidarity — was there a possibility of a smooth landing, a transformation of the Communist Party, and formation of a new left."

Gorbachev's response was to perform one of the major policy somersaults of the 20th century.

The superpower leader, who only weeks ago spoke firmly in favour of upholding the party's "leading role," became a chief advocate of striking that right from the Soviet constitution.

"Once again he turned out to be a pragmatist capable of adjusting to reality," Rzeczpospolita wrote. "And this reality is that, for many months now, the party's monopoly has in fact been broken in many republics."

As in Poland and Hungary where the communist parties disbanded to be replaced by left-wing parties more akin to those in Western Europe, the Lithuanian Communist Party has adopted as its own the aspirations of a nation for a multi-party political system in a more democratic society.

The only other option for Moscow was the China one — an attempt to stave off political change militarily. But the Soviet Union had been attempting that in its satellites for decades, with steadily worsening results.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa often claims it was the enduring Polish opposition to communist rule, manifested in the rise of Solidarity, that finally forced Moscow to adopt glasnost and perestroika.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze conceded as much in his arguments for reform before the party elite.

He said the Soviet Union was pushed to adopt its reform policies by the periodic unrest in the East bloc, beginning with the East German uprising in 1953, through Hungary in '56, Czechoslovakia in '68 and then 1970, 1976 and 1980 in Poland.

Now that Soviet party may have moved once again from the rear guard to the avant garde of reform in the East bloc, the question becomes whether it nevertheless has signed its own death warrant.

"The question is whether the CPSU and the Soviet Union will succeed where its East European neighbours have failed," said the Hungarian newspaper Nepszava.

Restructuring

"Will they be able to prove that a Communist Party can not only launch restructuring, but is also able to stay on at the head of a democratisation process radically changed and cleared of the bureaucratic system?"

One veteran Polish journalist was highly sceptical.

"This change paves the way for the final collapse of the only colonial empire left on the globe," he said.

Sweeping aside criticism from conservative colleagues unhappy at the speed of change, Gorbachev succeeded on Wednesday in pushing through a new platform which paves the way for the eventual creation of a multi-party democracy.

Seeking to harness demands for a radical Eastern European style-change now sweeping his own country, the Kremlin leader has persuaded Soviet communists that they must be prepared eventually to share power with other political forces.

And, in typical style, Gorbachev did so in a way that will further reinforce his own grip on power, with the platform also beefing up the presidency to give him more clout — on paper at least — than any of his predecessors.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1531 — King Henry VIII is recognised as supreme head of the Church of England.

1543 — England's King Henry VIII signs treaty of alliance with Holy Roman Emperor Charles V against France.

1744 — Naval battle of Toulon begins between Britain and combined Franco-Spanish fleet.

1798 — French forces take Rome.

1888 — King Lobengula of Matabele, Rhodesia, accepts British protection.

1889 — Constitution is granted in Japan, with two chamber Diet, but emperor retains extensive power.

1922 — Nine-power treaty is signed in Washington for securing China's independence and maintaining "open door" United States and Japan sign naval agreement.

1929 — Lateran Treaty establishes an independent Vatican City.

1944 — US carrier planes strike heavy blows against Japanese positions on Eniwetok in Marshall Islands in Pacific during World War II.

1956 — Referendum in Malta favours integration with Britain.

1958 — Tunisia informs France that French warships no longer can use Bizerta.

1963 — United States recognises new government in Iraq after revolt, fighting still going on in provinces three days after uprising.

1967 — Military rule is imposed in Peking during civil strife in China.

1968 — Communist troops execute 300 civilians in South Vietnam and bury them in mass grave during fighting for the city of Hue.

1971 — Treaty banning nuclear weapons from ocean floor is signed by 63 nations in ceremonies at Washington, London and Moscow.

1986 — Jewish dissident Anatoly Shcharansky walks to freedom in Berlin after almost nine years in Soviet captivity on espionage charges, and goes to Israel.

1988 — Fresh violence erupts in Bangladesh, bringing death toll from two days of election rioting to 80.

1989 — Afghanistan President Najib accuses Pakistan of massing troops along border to invade and then annex Afghanistan.

Social and economic woes predicted

Troop cut could impose burdens

LONDON, (Reuters): In their minds, Western politicians are already spending defence savings caused by troop cuts in Europe, but economists say the "peace dividend" of East bloc reform could impose heavy social and economic costs.

Such experts say the prospect of huge defence cuts promised by the revolution in the Eastern bloc will in the short term prove elusive and redrawing the military map of Europe could, on the contrary, impose uncharted burdens on people and economies.

White House proposals for deeper US and Soviet forces cuts in Europe and a growing perception in the West that the Warsaw Pact poses a dwindling military threat, have raised hopes for massive savings on defence budgets in coming years.

Belgium and the Netherlands have already indicated they are anxious to cash in the peace dividend and cut their troop levels in West Germany.

Budget

In Washington, as the annual ritual of negotiating the budget begins, congressmen are looking to fund domestic programmes through defence cuts.

But economists caution that at a time when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is taking the biggest gamble of his career in breaking the Communist Party's monopoly on power, the political and military picture of Eastern Europe is far from stable.

"Instability in Eastern Europe argues against doing away with armies altogether and the need for a rapid response force in the West — that would be very expensive," said Jim Rollo, economist at the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

"Until the strategic options are clarified, we don't really know what the peace dividend is."

In the short-term, economists say troop cuts could spark expensive reorganisation of Nato forces and produce knock-on effects throughout West European economies where thousands of jobs depend on the military structure of the past 40 years.

Hopes for a peace dividend stem from the crushing burden of defence spending caused by Western commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as guarantor of their security.

In what has been dubbed the first post-cold-war budget, the Pentagon has requested \$306.9 billion for defence in the 1991 fiscal year starting in October. It represents a cautious cut of just two per cent in real terms and a huge \$180 billion of the total will go to maintaining European defence where 325,000 army, navy and air force personnel are stationed.

"There's going to be a peace dividend, but it's not going to be as large as some naively think at the moment," White House budget director Richard Darman said 10 days ago.

To keep the 57,500-strong British Army in West Germany plus air force personnel costs about £4.3 billion (\$7.3 billion) in the current fiscal year, defence officials say.

Figures compiled by Nato show defence spending made up an average 6.3 per cent of US gross domestic product over the past five years, while the burden



US Marine Corps on amphibious landing craft in Europe. (Reuters wirephoto)

on Britain was 4.6 per cent, on the Netherlands 3.0 per cent and on Belgium 2.9 per cent.

Analysts say the true peace dividend looks likely to be pushed well into the future and will be closely linked to the progress on arms talks between Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

President George Bush's new proposal to leave 195,000 US troops in West Germany, plus plans to close or cut back 10 bases in Europe, appears to be part of a complex balancing act.

Analysts say Bush wants to head off calls in Congress for bigger defence cuts as budget negotiations get under way. But he also wants to allay concern among West European leaders that US troops will pull out too soon or be cut unilaterally.

Even a relatively modest demilitarisation of West Germany could have a heavy initial social and economic cost.

US forces in West Germany spent about 14 billion marks (\$3.4 billion) a year in the economy. According to US figures, some 65,000 West German

nationals are employed directly by the military and another 125,000 jobs are dependent on US forces. In 1988, the army was the 13th largest non-governmental employer. A cut of about 50,000 US troops now contemplated by Bush could have a knock-on effect throughout the economy.

"Bringing the boys back home" could be a double-edged sword on the labour market. If armies shrink in size or conscription is cut, some nations such as Belgium which already has 10 per cent unemployment, may not be able to find new jobs.

Relocating Nato troops on home soil could be expensive if new barracks had to be built. "There will be heavy transitional costs. The classic example was the Vietnam war... adjustment can take years," said David Mars, economist at Warburg Securities.

A question mark hangs over defence firms and research and development spending. The West German Economics Ministry has commissioned a study of the impact on arms industry, examining whether firms can shift from military to civilian production.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Evans

Unification gathers momentum

"EVENTS in Europe are moving so fast that we policy-makers can't keep up with them," one of the leading American foreign policy-makers told me this week. "On top of it, it is often hard to determine what various European policy-makers really want," he added with a certain sense of despair.

The indecision here is primarily due to what has become the toughest and most controversial question: the reunification of Germany. It is reinforced by the indecision in Bonn where the policy-makers cannot make up their mind whether they want Germany to remain the key member in Nato and in the European Economic Community, or whether a looser relationship to the two organisations would be preferable.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany would prefer to delay German unification, but finds it difficult to do so because his German patriotism demands that he appears to be a firm supporter of it and because he is afraid that the East German electorate will be supporting the Social Democratic Party and give it what could amount to permanent majority.

The American and Soviet governments, too, would prefer a delay in Germany's unification. They hoped that this issue could be dealt with in slow stages. That certainly was also the hope among all Western European governments. In fact, the Soviet government would have preferred to be able to ignore the issue altogether.

Unification

But now, that German unification has grown into the central issue at such speed and with such momentum, nobody dares anymore to oppose it. The big question now is not anymore "whether" but "how". And in this respect opinions vary sharply. Chancellor Kohl has reassured the West that he wants Germany to remain in Nato and in the EEC. But how does he want to overcome or reconcile the addition of East Germany?

The simplest solution would be to include a unified Germany in Nato. Neither the US nor the European allies would seriously object to this solution. But the Soviets object to it and so do most East Germans. From Moscow's viewpoint it would move the Western front too far east. The East German Prime Minister, Hans Modrow, proposed instead the neutralisation of the whole of a unified Germany. That has been rejected by Kohl and would not be acceptable to the United States. Furthermore, what makes this proposal unrealistic is the fact that it is relatively easy to neutralise a small country, such as Switzerland or Sweden, but not a major power as would be a unified Germany.

The West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher suggested that a reunited Germany should remain a member of Nato but that the territory of East Germany be kept outside the structure of Nato. He also proposed that East Germany remain militarily part of the Warsaw Pact and that Soviet troops would have the right to remain stationed on East German territory. It would mean that Germany became unified politically and economically, but not in military-strategic terms.

Gorbachev, who opposed unification publicly, gave the impression after his meeting with Modrow that he had softened his opposition. It came as a great surprise, but after his meeting with Gregor Gysi, the East German communist leader, he tried to correct that impression. He said that he viewed the issue with "understanding" but warned that "forcing passions and simplified approaches to the

problem could be pernicious." His Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, also indicated that Soviet opposition to reunification was still alive when he suggested that an international referendum be held assuming, most probably, that the vote would go against reunification. The idea of such a referendum has since been turned down by Kohl.

One thing is certain: Nato without Germany does not make any sense and would lead to the disintegration of the alliance which is the key to United States participation in the defence of Europe, or, to put it more broadly, to an American presence in Europe. The Western allies certainly want to make sure that the US remains committed to Europe, that this link not be seriously weakened for at least another ten years, for once cut off, it would be very hard to restore it in future.

There is no doubt that the Bush administration's policy is to stay in Europe as long as possible to ensure a balance of power and Western security. To everybody's surprise Gorbachev has said that the Soviet Union would welcome a continued American presence in Europe. In contrast to the past that represented a basic change of Soviet policy. More recently Gorbachev has been less forthcoming, most likely because the Warsaw Pact is disintegrating and the presence of Soviet forces on the territory of members of the Warsaw Pact, such as Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, has become unwelcome.

The European Economic Community has its own problems with a reunited Germany. The question that is at issue is whether a united Germany should simply be incorporated in the EEC or whether East Germany should become a separate member. Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, out of the blue, proposed that either solution would be acceptable to him because, in his view, the problem of Germany is a very special problem and therefore requires special treatment. East Germany, actually, already enjoys a special treatment because its exports enjoy the same privileges as West Germany's. But becoming, formally, a member of the EEC is another matter, and the British, French and Belgians have already objected to such "special" treatment. It is one more illustration of the profound schisms the German question triggers in the minds of most Europeans.

Events

The main reason is that a unified Germany, whether in Nato or in the European Economic Community, will dominate both and hence dominate Europe. It is true that the Soviet Union, thanks to its powerful military forces remains a superpower militarily, but in many important aspects it is an underdeveloped Third World type country. Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany, which used to be considered as belonging to Central Europe, are bound to move closer to the West — there simply is not the kind of cohesion among the East Europeans that exists among West Europeans and that is bound to weaken the Soviet Union even further. It is not surprising, therefore, that under these circumstances Gorbachev is calling for a "common European home" that would put an end to today's divided Europe and allow the Soviet Union to play a different political role in the new Europe.

If one leading American policy-maker finds it hard to keep up with the fast moving events involving Germany, another, commenting on Gorbachev's decision to abolish the monopoly of the

Communist Party, said to me: "It blows my mind." President Bush, I am told, while welcoming what amounts to a kind of counter-revolution in the Soviet Union, is also worried how such daring and courage will affect Gorbachev's future. He first encouraged this counter-revolution in Eastern Europe and now must deal with its reverberations in the Soviet Union. Whether the changes in Eastern Europe will force him to reform the Soviet party system is unclear, but it is hard to believe that he did not anticipate it. At any rate, he has aroused the anger and concern of the conservatives in the party and it remains to be seen whether they will seriously challenge him. And so while in the West experts are wondering how long Gorbachev will be able to keep himself on top, he is storming ahead with his reforms as if he sat safely in his saddle.

Strength

Since virtually all of Gorbachev's reforms make the Soviet Union less dangerous and more democratic, it is not surprising that Bush is thinking hard how to strengthen Gorbachev in his trials and tribulations. He will be trying to reach a political compromise with the Soviet leader over Afghanistan where the Soviet Union is not strong enough to win its military intervention and the American-supported guerrillas are too weak to defeat the Afghan Army. It would help Gorbachev politically and materially at this crucial moment. He is refraining from encouraging the independence movements in the three Baltic countries to bring their efforts to a climax at this difficult moment and he is going to try to accelerate the arms control talks so that some basic agreements could be signed at the June summit meeting. Who would have expected an American president wanting to strengthen a Soviet leader?

Czechoslovakia's temporary president, Vaclav Havel, is due in America in mid-February. What please the Americans about the Czechs is that they are not coming to ask for money, but, above all, for advice of how best to create a true, functioning democracy. Their biggest problem seems to be the Slovak demands for independence and the need to draft a new constitution that would satisfy them enough to stay within Czechoslovakia. What troubles them about Havel is that he favours the complete withdrawal of all Soviet and American troops from Europe. He is so anxious to send the Soviets back into the Soviet Union that he forgets that Western Europe is not safe yet — especially in view of the turmoil in the Soviet Union and that it would be a major mistake to send American troops home across the ocean.

Behind the scenes attempts to revive the Middle Eastern peace process do not look promising. Israeli officials, visiting here, have explained that the internal split within the Likud Party makes it difficult for Prime Minister Shamir to be more forthcoming. And the Palestinians living on the occupied West Bank, who would be willing to form a delegation, independent of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, are fearful that the PLO would make life difficult for them. The attack by Palestinian commandos on the Egyptian bus carrying Israeli tourists which cost eleven lives, has once again put, whatever behind the scene exchanges between Israel and the Palestinians existed, on hold. There is a growing American interest in the Middle East and there is now an active debate in the administration whether to withdraw from the peace process, at least for the time being.

Letters to the editor

Nice organisation

SIR: The Kerala vs Goa football match held in connection with the Republic Day celebrations of India at Fahaheel Club was an epoch-making event in the history of sports among members of the Indian community here.

The enthusiastic sports lovers overcrowded the Fahaheel stadium in thousands and the organisers well arranged the match from the beginning till the end. As published earlier, the game started exactly at 10.10 and finished before 12.30. All arrangements for this football match were made by the committee with professionals. Neither the guests nor the spectators did find any difficulty in locating their seats in the gallery. VIPs were greeted with garlands by young girls dressed in traditional Indian way and the volunteers were smoothly guiding them to the seats allocated to them. Even though 43 prizes were to be distributed by various guests, the time used for this purpose was very short.

Moreover it is the first time in a community sports we found that our ambassador has exchanged gifts with an honourable Kuwaiti friend Shaddad Al Mayyas, secretary of Nadi Fahaheel, as a token of our long lasting Indo-Kuwaiti friendship. Definitely such events will promote cultural relationship between the two countries.

The unique feature of this football tourney is that most of the leading Indians in our community joined together to make this venture a great success. By making fool-proof arrangements, the general convenor Hassan Thikody added one more feather to his cap. In addition to that it is a landmark in our sports activities here. Well done Hassan!

Rajan Nadavallil,
Safat.

Peace mission

SIR: I take this opportunity to thank the press of Kuwait for your kind co-operation and help in making my peace mission a success in Kuwait by excellent coverage.

I am very much grateful to the chairman of Olympic Committee, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmadi Al Jaber Al Sabah for his good blessings for my endeavour in the efforts of peace.

I am also thankful to the Indian ambassador, his colleagues and my country people in Kuwait who gave all the encouragement and support.

My short stay in Kuwait and the pleasant experiences I had with the local people will remain green in my memory forever.

Jayaram Ganesh,
India.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Falashas: low key arrival

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): While Israel greets an influx of Soviet immigrants with public acclaim, the arrival of Ethiopian Jews since the renewal of ties with the Marxist government in Addis Ababa has been shrouded in secrecy.

The Jewish Agency, a quasi-government body that helps new immigrants, said there had been little change in the numbers coming from Ethiopia since relations were restored three months ago. The agency would not discuss efforts to increase the flow.

"The average number was about 100 every month, which is not what we would like but this is the situation," agency spokesman Gad Ben-Ari told Reuters on Thursday.

Receptions

Nightly receptions for Soviet Jews landing at Tel Aviv airport, now running at 5,000 month, attract broad coverage by foreign and domestic media.

While the actual arrivals of Ethiopians are not publicised, news about recent immigrants has surfaced in connection with other events.

Last month officials in the northern town of Maalot protested at plans to use the entire local immigrant absorption centre for new Ethiopian arrivals.

A tree planting ceremony arranged on Tuesday involved 2,000 new arrivals. Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency immigration department, said there were 1,500 Soviet Jews and 500 Ethiopians, though had been in Israel more than a year.

Israel restored relations with Ethiopia in November amid widespread suspicion it had struck a deal to reunite the estimated 15,000 Jews still in Ethiopia with the 17,000 Ethiopian Jews already in the Jewish state.

Speculation was heightened by repeated foreign reports that Israel was providing military aid to the Marxist government, which is fighting for its existence against secessionist movements.

Quote me

"I've been in Congress for 20 years, and for 19 of those 20 years we kept hearing, 'the Russians are coming. The Russians are coming.' The Russians aren't coming. I kept saying the Russians aren't coming. I now realize I made a mistake. The Russians have come, but they did not come in a spirit of war. They are here in a spirit of openness, communication, understanding." — US representative Ron Dellums, Democratic of California, attacking US spending on such prized US Air Force programmes as the B-2 bomber and MX missiles at a US House of Representatives hearing.

"The history of baseball labour relations is not a pleasant or happy one and that cannot be reversed by a new commissioner in the fourth month of his tenure. It is going to take hard work." — Fay Vincent, first-year commissioner of US Major League Baseball, saying it would be miraculous if owners and players agree on a contract in time for spring training camp to begin on schedule Feb 15.

"Death follows Rushdie as his own shadow. The day may soon come when death will finally catch up with him at some secret underground den on a London street as a miserable and humiliated person or perhaps the apostle's corrupt blood will be shed by an enterprising Muslim, either of which end would be of equal consequences." — Tehran newspaper Kayhan in an editorial.

فكرنا في العمل

Fundamentalists vows war on West

PARIS, Feb 10, (Reuters): A Tunisian-born fundamentalist accused of masterminding a bombing blitz on Paris promised a "great war" against Christianity and the West yesterday.

Fuad Ali Saleh, 33, made the threat at the end of his two-week trial for drugs trafficking, conspiracy to carry out terrorist acts and illegal possession of explosives in connection with 1985-86 bombings.

"Today begins the terrible trial of justice which will be the prelude to the great war forecast by God in the Holy Quran and

awaited by the oppressed of the earth," he said.

Saleh's wife and eight others are also on trial. The court will announce a verdict and sentence on March 9.

A second trial will be held later for charges relating to attacks on Paris department stores and restaurants in which 13 people were killed and 250 injured.

Saleh was ejected from the courtroom on the first day of the trial for shouting insults against France and the West but he

sat calmly through the remainder of the proceedings.

But during his plea, Saleh, who defended himself, rose in the hushed courtroom crowded with police guards and launched into a long tirade against Western civilisation.

Prosecutor Jacques Fourvel called for a 20-year sentence, the maximum term for drugs smuggling. Police found 6.5 kg (14 pounds) of heroin and explosives believed to belong to his group hidden in a forest

shortly before his arrest in 1987.

Fourvel demanded the same sentence for Lebanese bomb expert Haidar Habib, one of eight Lebanese wanted under international arrest warrants who are being tried in their absence.

French intelligence services believe the Beirut-based pro-Iranian Hizbullah (Party of God) financed the group and supplied it with explosives in an attempt to force group and supplied it with explosives in an attempt to force France to end its support for Iraq during the Gulf war.



Tight security

The former Shah of Iran, Prince Reza Pahlavi, speaks at Westminster Central Hall while surrounded by tight security. Reza Pahlavi, was quoted on Saturday as saying he had passed information to Washington and London of an Iranian plot to attack US targets in Western Europe.

Interviewed by the Times newspaper, the former crown prince said he had no doubt Iranian agents were planning an attack next week to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution that toppled his father. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rebels pine for military victory

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, Feb 10, (AP): Muslim rebels said today the only route to peace in Afghanistan after 11 years of civil war was on the battlefield — not through the negotiating table.

"A military victory is our only option," said Salehman Shah, a spokesman for a joint rebel news agency called Milla. "Unless we make progress militarily we won't get any concessions from the Russians or convince our American supporters to stay with us."

Another rebel spokesman, Sardar Nassery, said the rebels, known as Mujahideen, would never negotiate with Afghan President Najib.

"We are ready to talk to the Soviet Union, but only on the condition that they offer us an agenda before the meetings," he said.

Moscow has reportedly been sending military and humanitarian shipments worth about \$300 million a month to its communist allies in Kabul.

Last February, the Kremlin withdrew the last of its combat troops from Afghanistan after nine years of military intervention.

Bus attack was plotted in Israel

Islamic radicals not involved: Egypt

CAIRO, Feb 10, (Agencies): Last weekend's ambush of a tour bus that killed nine Israeli vacationers was plotted inside Israel or Arab territories it occupies, a leading state-owned newspaper reported today.

Al-Ahram said investigations revealed that hand grenades used in the attack were US-made. "This type of grenade is not available in any Middle East country except Israel," Al-Ahram said.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed official of the Interior Ministry, which is responsible for internal security, for the report.

The official told Al-Ahram last Sunday's assault, in which two gunmen believed to be Palestinians raked the bus with automatic fire and hand grenades, was patterned after a March 1988 attack on a bus near Beersheba, Israel.

The security official told Al-Ahram that the gunmen followed the bus in a white Peugeot from the moment it left Rafah, a divided city straddling the border between Egypt and Israel.

Another state-owned newspaper, Al-Gomhouriya, quoted Interior Minister Abdel-Halim Moussa as saying in an interview that the gunmen were non-Egyptians.

He stopped short of describing them as Palestinians but said: "Don't ask me about their identities, because we know who stands to benefit from the attack."

Published reports have pointed steadily to a Palestinian connection. The bus driver is a Rafah-born Palestinian with Egyptian citizenship, and the man who rented the attack car reportedly is a Palestinian. Moussa said both the bus driver and his brother have been detained for questioning.

He emphasized that Egyptian Muslim militants, involved in anti-government activity and clashes with police in recent years, had nothing to do with the episode.

Moussa said although the gunmen followed the bus through the Sinai peninsula, they waited to attack until it was past the Suez Canal in mainland Egypt.

Had they attacked in Sinai, he said, the presence of Egyptian security checkpoints between them and the canal would have forced them to return to Israeli-controlled territory.

The ambush occurred 40 miles (64km) northeast of Cairo at a point without nearby police protection.

Moussa admitted shortcomings on the part of his men. He said Egyptian security should have taken precautions for the bus since it carried prominent Israeli personalities including lawyers, university professors and others.

But he said investigators had strong clues to the culprits and are halfway toward unraveling the mystery. Among the clues, he said, was a videotape shot by an Israeli tourist on the bus.

He did not name the videotaper, but Israeli newspapers identified him as Pinchas First, among 20 Israelis wounded in the attack. An Egyptian tour guide also was wounded.

Moussa said the videotape, reportedly three minutes long, recorded the voices and faces of the attackers. "I used my camera right from the start of the attack, and I'm sure that I managed to film the assailants," First said in an interview with the Israeli newspaper Yediot Ahronot.

He said the gunmen wore scarves as masks at first, but their scarves fell off after they boarded the bus. He said he turned the tape over to Egyptian police.

Contrary to reports in the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram, Moussa made clear that neither gunman was arrested.

"If the culprits did not manage to leave Egypt in the two hours that

followed the attack, I am confident that we will arrest them," Moussa said.

Police sources said that about 100 people, mostly Palestinians, have been detained for questioning so far.

The sources said police also combed Rafah, which has a large Palestinian population including about 5,000 refugees stranded when Israel captured the Gaza Strip. Security men searched the town house-to-house for suspects.

The Palestine Liberation Organization is helping Egypt investigate the attack, a senior PLO official was quoted as saying.

"The PLO and the Palestinian embassy in Cairo are co-operating with Egyptian security bodies over the assault," Saad Kamal, the PLO representative in Cairo, told Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA).

Israeli troops sealed off major towns in the occupied West Bank today and clamped curfews on parts of Gaza as Arab residents celebrated the eighth anniversary of the outlawed Palestine Communist Party.

Troops in the Gaza Strip's Jabalya Palestinian refugee camp and Bani Suheila village shot and wounded two 17-year-old Arab protesters, hospitals reported.

Communist supporters in Gaza City marched with the banned Palestinian flag until security forces dispersed them with tear-gas.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Saddam confers with envoy: President Saddam Hussein conferred with a Turkish envoy on Saturday on the cutting off of the Euphrates waters last month, the official Iraqi news agency reported.

Visiting Turkish Minister of State Isin Celbi also delivered a message from Premier Turgut Ozal containing a response to a request by Saddam last month for a return of the Euphrates waters.

The agency did not reveal the contents of the message. Turkey cut off most of the flow of the river on Jan 13 to fill the giant Ataturk dam. The cutoff ends tomorrow.

Syria and Iraq are traversed by the 1,460-mile (2,300 kilometre) Euphrates, which originated in the mountains of eastern Turkey before it flows into the Gulf. (AP)

Pyramid to reopen to public: Egypt said on Friday the famous great pyramid at Giza West of Cairo, would reopen to visitors in March after closing last year for renovations.

Zehi Hawas, in charge of the Giza pyramids at Egypt's department of antiquities, said visitors would be able to enter the great pyramid through the only entrance of its northern face as of March 1990.

Hawas said the pyramid would be open for six hours a day.

The pyramid was closed to the public after archaeologists said the breath of thousands of visitors was contributing to high humidity levels and potentially eroding concentration of salts in the air inside the pyramid's "grand passage." (UPI)

Quarantine after wolf attack: A northern Turkish village was put under quarantine against a possible rabies outbreak on Saturday after a wolf attacked 11 people and dozens of cattle, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said.

The wolf, driven down from mountains near Ortalik village in the Black Sea province of Sinop by hunger and cold, was killed by villagers three days ago, it said. (Reuters)

Dangerous political style: The Arab League has expressed deep concern over the statement made by East German Premier Hans Modrow, who admitted that his country shoulders part of the responsibility of the oppression made by the Nazi regime against the Jews.

Arab League spokesman on Friday described East Germany's stance as "a dangerous political style." (Kuna)

Police hold 11 militants: Egyptian police have arrested 11 suspects in an arson attack by Muslim militants on a video shop in the central town of Assuit, security sources said on Saturday. (Reuters)

Director removed: The director and chief engineer of a coal mine in northern Turkey where 68 miners were trapped in an explosion have lost their posts, a cabinet member said on Saturday.

State Minister Ismet Ozturk told reporters in the northern town of Mersin that Hassan Saritope and Cemil Tiryakioglu were also under investigation by the local prosecutor. (AP)

West cautions

GENEVA, Feb 10, (Agencies): Fifteen Western nations yesterday urged Israel to hold back from settling Jewish immigrants in Israeli occupied territories, arguing that such a move would be illegal.

A draft resolution submitted to the UN Human Rights commission said that a settlement programme would violate the Geneva conventions on international humanitarian law, which set out the responsibilities of an occupying power and prohibit the transfer of populations.

Angry parliamentarian: A lawmaker angry over official corruption in Egypt brandished a big knife during a session of the People's Assembly on Saturday, then said he was quitting and stormed out.

The Middle East News Agency said nobody was hurt in the incident, which it said was unprecedented. The agency identified the deputy as Ahmed Shetya.

Children killed by old mine: Two boys aged eight and 10 were killed when a Second World War landmine exploded near the South Tunisian town of Kabil, Tunis Radio said on Saturday.

Two other children were injured, one critically, in the accident on Friday, it added. (Reuters)

Iran's envoy denounces terrorism

NICOSIA, Feb 10, (AP): The Iranian ambassador to Paris, Ali Ahani, denounced terrorism in an interview with radio Monte Carlo today and denied any Iranian involvement in terrorist attacks in France.

Ahani's denial followed a US warning on Thursday that a terrorist attack against Americans in US facilities in Europe was possible this week-end by pro-Iranian militants.

The Iranian government issued a statement yesterday rejecting the US charge as "baseless."

The US warning was linked to the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution tomorrow.

The Shah's last government collapsed Feb 11, 1979, 10 days after the late Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Tehran after 14 years in exile.

In his interview with radio Monte Carlo, an Arabic-language station beamed to the Middle East, Ahani said Islam rejected any actions against innocent people.

He also rejected French press allegations that Iran was linked to a series of 1986 bomb attacks in Paris by a pro-Iranian Tunisian fundamentalist, Fuad Ali Saleh, currently on trial in the French capital.

The French authorities allege Saleh, and other pro-Iranian Arabs rounded up after the bombings, acted under orders from Tehran.

Ahani also criticised the French government for failing to honour what Iran claims was a promise to release Anis Naccache, a Lebanese.

Tripartite ME meeting this month

MANAMA, Feb 10, (AP): A visiting US State Department official said yesterday that a meeting of American, Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers was expected to get off the ground this month to discuss the Middle East peacemaking process.

John Kelly, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, told the Gulf News Agency before leaving Bahrain on the next leg of a familiarisation tour of Gulf Arab states that the meeting would probably take place in Washington.

But he also said that another venue outside the United States was not to be excluded.

The tripartite meeting was proposed by US Secretary of State James Baker to pave the way for a direct, Palestinian-Israeli peace dialogue.

Preparations for the meeting have taken months as the Palestine Liberation Organisation insists on naming the members of the Palestinian delegation.

A circulated suggestion was that the recent attack on the Israeli tourist bus in Egypt, in which nine were killed and 20 injured, had derailed a tentative plan for the three ministers to meet this weekend in Geneva, while Baker was in Europe for talks with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze.

But Kelly told GNA that no date had originally been fixed as the three countries were still carrying out some preparations. He did not elaborate.

Following the bus attack, Israel's hardline Likud Party led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had put off a meeting scheduled for Wednesday to line up a stance on the proposed dialogue with the Palestinians.

Israeli troops sealed off major towns in the occupied West Bank today and clamped curfews on parts of Gaza as Palestinians celebrated the eighth anniversary of the outlawed Palestine Communist Party.

European Economic Community Commissioner Abel Matutes today supported EEC pressure on Israel for a Middle East settlement, but ruled out similar action against Turkey for a solution of the problem of war-divided Cyprus.



A hooded Palestinian spray paints a hammer and sickle communist symbol during a rally marking the anniversary of the Palestinian Communist Party. Arabic graffiti reads 'long live the 10th of February' the day the Palestinian Communist Party was reestablished. (Reuters wirephoto)

Drug rugs Woven

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 10, (Reuters): An Afghan citizen found guilty of weaving heroin into 16 carpets imported from Kabul was sentenced to 15 years in jail yesterday by a US judge.

Mohd Akbar, 41, was accused of smuggling about 35 pounds (15 kg) of heroin in a total shipment of 200 Afghan carpets routed through San Francisco international airport.

Jailed for prisoner death

RABAT Feb 10, (Reuters): The Rabat daily L'Opinion reported today that two municipal officials and an accomplice have been jailed for 15, 10 and five years respectively for beating a prisoner to death in the south Moroccan city of Marrakesh.

Mohamed Idriss Kaitoui, editor of L'Opinion, was sentenced to two years in jail in November and later pardoned by King Hassan for publishing a report of the incident.

He was convicted of publishing false reports liable to cause a breach of the peace in a statement from human rights groups denouncing the suspicious deaths of four people in custody last year, including the one in Marrakesh.

Abderrahim Ben Khalifa, 23, was arrested for refusing to work for Mbarak Laroussi, a "mooquadem" or municipal official. L'Opinion said the Marrakesh criminal court was told Khalifa was tied up, beaten and tortured in the presence of his mother.

French arrives in Beirut on hostage freedom mission

BEIRUT, Feb 10, (Agencies): Lucien Bitterlin, head of a pro-Arab French lobbying group who helped negotiate the release of two kidnapped French children in 1988, arrived in Beirut today amid speculation he was on a new mediation mission.

Bitterlin drove to West Beirut from Damascus, to meet Defence Minister Albert Mansour, Information Minister Edmond Rizk and Army commander Gen. Emile Lahoud at the beachside Summerland Hotel.

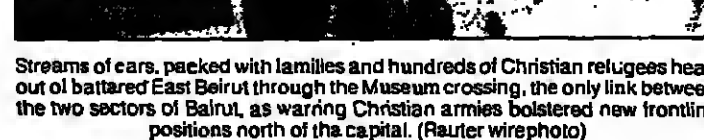
Bitterlin refused to talk to reporters about why he was in Beirut.

But his arrival raised speculation that he was seeking to secure the release of French and Belgian captives held by a radical Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal.

Bitterlin negotiated the Dec 29, 1988, release of Marie-Laure Valente, then aged seven, and her sister, Virginie, then aged six, from 13 months of the captivity with Abu Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council faction.

The children's mother, Jacqueline Valente and a baby daughter born in captivity, and five Belgians remain with the abductors.

Peggy Say, Sister of American hostage Terry Anderson, leaves today for meetings with the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and others in hopes of spurring her brother's release after nearly five years' captivity in Lebanon.



Streams of cars, packed with families and hundreds of Christian refugees head out of battered East Beirut through the Museum crossing, the only link between the two sectors of Beirut, as warring Christians bolstered new frontlines positions north of the capital. (Reuters wirephoto)

the houses as cover," Ephraim noted.

A black-haired young mother with a girl of about three years old in her lap sat crying softly as she waited at the Cypriot immigration desk for her passport to be stamped.

She refused to speak. But a friend said she had been separated from her husband and 10-day-old baby during the fighting.

"We don't know if they're

alive or dead," the friend told reporters.

A distraught middle-aged woman with a heavily bandaged foot limped off the ferry and her husband, who declined to be identified, said she had been wounded in the fighting.

"It was very bad in Ashrafieh," said Alfred Heykal, a Christian businessman accompanied by his wife and two frightened little girls clutching dolls tightly.

Zaire President emerges as new mediator in Sudan civil war

KHARTOUM, Feb 10, (Reuters): Zaire is emerging as chief mediator in Sudan's civil war amid signs that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is reluctant to continue peace efforts, diplomats said today.

They said any peace talks between Khartoum's military junta and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) were likely to be held in Zaire under the auspices of President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, has in recent months become increasingly frustrated at the slow pace of negotiations,

they added.

Two rounds of talks between the SPLA and the junta, which seized power last June, have collapsed. The two sides recently resumed fighting in southern Sudan.

Several junta members have recently said the third round of peace talks would be held in Cairo under Mubarak's auspices. But state Radio Omdurman said today that Mubarak had asked Mobutu to mediate in the Sudanese conflict.

It said Zaire's Foreign Minister Nguzu Karl-Bond was due to visit Khartoum soon to deliver a message from Mobutu to

junta leader General Omar Hassan Ali Bashir.

The radio said SPLA leader Col. Nefza Garang met Mobutu in Zaire on Jan 27.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources said a Zairean official was recently in Cairo to deliver a letter from Mobutu to Mubarak.

Diplomats say pro-Western Egypt is concerned about growing signs that some junta members subscribe to Islamic ideology and wants to distance itself from Bashir.

Zaire is the only country bordering

Sudan which has not accused by the junta of supporting the SPLA.

The SPLA this week accused Zaire of siding with the Khartoum government by allowing it to fly 1,000 soldiers back to combat areas after they fled to Zaire to escape the war. But it said it would still accept an offer of mediation from Mobutu.

The SPLA has been fighting government troops in the mainly Christian and animist south since 1983 to end what it calls domination by the Arabised, Muslim north.



The Singapore Experience

SAS Kuwait Hotel will be hosting a lavish tribute to Singapore at the Tent on February 20 and 21. The Singapore Experience will feature an elaborate cabaret with Lion dancers and Malay artists as well as an exotic dinner buffet prepared especially by famous Singaporean chefs in Kuwait for the festival. Co-sponsored by the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and Singapore Airlines, this oriental extravaganza will perform in Kuwait before touring other Gulf countries and the Middle East.

The Singapore Experience is the first show of its kind in Kuwait and aims at forging closer relations between Kuwait and Singapore. Also sponsoring the event in Kuwait are R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. with Winston Cigarettes and Pepsi.

Tickets for the 'Singapore Festival' are available on sale at the SAS Kuwait Hotel's front office.



Farewell to Said Akbar Afreidi

Salman Shah hosted a farewell party for the First Secretary of Pakistan's Embassy in Kuwait, Said Akbar Afreidi, who left for Mozambique recently. The picture shows the host (fifth from right, back row) and Afreidi (third from right, front row) with other guests.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news
- 9.50 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Shina's Min Al Madhri: Arabic serial (part 2)
- 11.25 That's Incredible: foreign variety programme
- 12.15 News summary
- 12.30 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING

- 4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.45 Saham Al Fadh: cartoon serial
- 5.15 Cartoon serial
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Waqala Hakeem: historical serial (part 3)
- 7.00 Varieties
- 7.15 You and your health: local programme prepared by Dr. Salem Mohammed and presented by Dr. Rashed Al Owaish
- 7.45 Diwanat Shuara Al Nabat: local poetry session
- 8.30 Good evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Ahlam Sagheera: local serial (part 3)
- 10.45 Al Thaman Ghalili: Arabic feature, starring Tahya Karyouka, Yousif Shalabi, Dalal Abdul Aziz and Ahmad

KTV 2

- 12.00 News summary
- 12.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 The New Three Stages: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 The Beachcombers "Poster Boy": Constable John has enough to worry about, with a rash of break-ins upsetting the community. He is also struck with corporal Dan Fellows looking over his shoulder.
- 7.00 The Celts: "The Birth of a Nation". Christianity reaches England... The Celts prevail in the country... Analysis of the Celtic British personality...
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Wildside: "Until the Fat Lady Sings"
- 9.30 Coach: "Hot Hoot Mike". Madame Rola a ballet dancer expresses her desire to introduce the ballet spirit into football games.
- 10.00 Q.E.D. The Bats, the Blossoms and the Biologist: A woman biologist studies the strange relation between bats and a kind of blossoms. Their existence is based on mutual cooperation...
- 10.30 Bestsellers
- 12.00 News in brief
- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

Al Andalus
Batman
Salmiyah
Hall Booked
Al Hama
Arabic film
Drive-in
Beverly Hills Body Snatchers
Al Firdous
Jesse Ke Azoo
Fahad
Namak Halal

CINEMA TODAY

Al Jahra
Zara Si Zindagi
Granada
Jaisi Karni Waisi Bharni
Salsabikhat
Operation Ninja
Jeeb
Unnikrishnante
Christmas

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.10 am
Zohr 12.02 pm
Asr 3.11
Maghreb 5.34
Isha 6.52

MPW officials visit Hempel Paints

WHILE paint has always had the important usage of making surfaces clean and attractive, people are becoming increasingly concerned about the protective qualities of paint and its ability to lengthen the life of valuable assets.

To this end, Hempel Paints — Kuwait has sought to assure the public that their paints are both attractive and protective.

Engineers from the maintenance management of the Ministry of Public Works recently attended a tour of Kuwait's first paint factory — Hempel Paints in Shuwaikh.

The MPW officials were taken around the factory where Hempel management and staff demonstrated in detail the process of quality paint manufacture. The engineers followed the production of paint from the raw material stage, the mixing stage onto the filling into cans and Hempel Paint's finished goods stores. They were given, first hand information on the manufacture of building, industrial, marine and yacht paints.

Finally, an audio-visual show, signifying the importance of paints to construction, was

presented to the engineers and discussion on various aspects of coating were opened.

Hempel Paints has been manufacturing superior paints in

Kuwait since 1966. Their paints are available through their headquarters in Shuwaikh and select paint retailers throughout the country.



The Leonard world

AT the origin of this huge universe, a man: Jacques Leonard, Philippe Leonard's father.

Jacques Leonard has always believed in luck but also in hard work. As he says to his staff, "a gift for business is not enough, you also need perseverance and even passion for work." His whole career and success have gone to prove this maxim.

In 1943, with little capital, Jacques Leonard founded a company trading in special fabrics for the Haute-Couture — J. Leonard et Cie — which success grew up very quickly inside the World of Fashion. His fabrics enjoyed the privilege of being chosen by the greatest French "couturiers".

Chanel — Christian Dior — Balenciaga — Givenchy — Patou — Yves Saint Laurent — Jacques Heim — Nina Ricci — Ungaro — Molyneux — Rochas — Worth — Carven.

But Leonard confesses that "the rocket that put him into orbit" was Tergal, which nobody believed in at the time and which he launched in 1953, as well as the genius idea born in his mind of printing the jerseys — idea recognised by the public in 1962 through a very successful presentation of a complete collection of "fully-fashioned" pull-overs, after having overcome many technical difficulties.

Later on, Leonard widened the scope of his firm by founding Leonard Fashion, a ready-to-wear line whose exotic and colourful prints soon became a label of elegance. Nowadays, Leonard Fashion reaches a turnover of 400 million francs of which 85% is export.

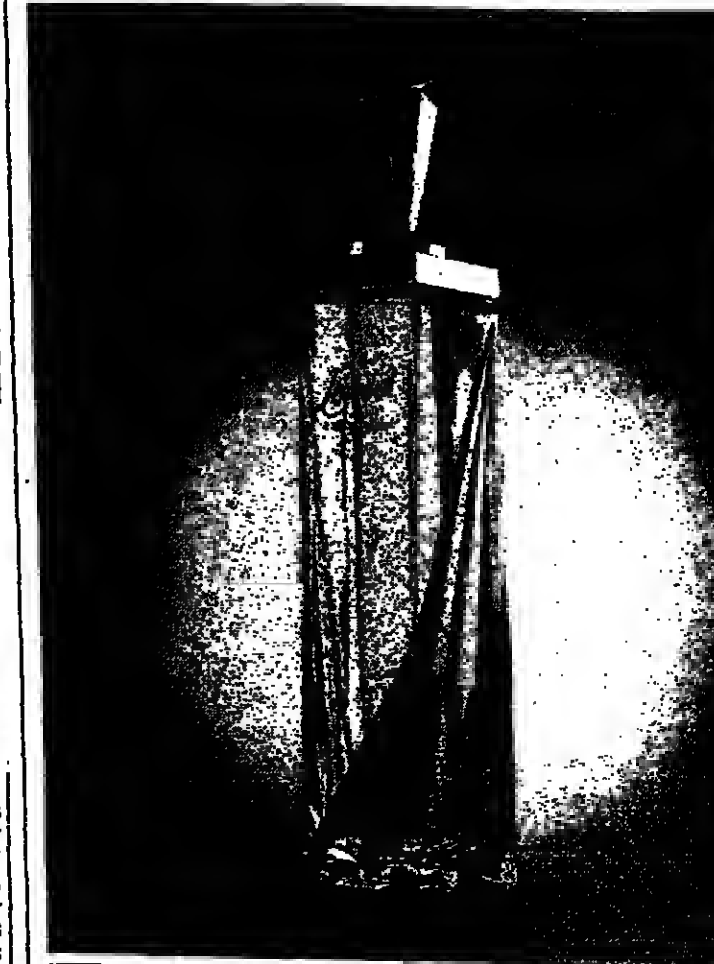
The logical step was that Leonard makes from these sumptuous fabrics and from those still more more sumptuous ready-to-wear collections a complete world of accessories including not only perfumes, whose success is already well-known, but also luggage and leather-goods, porcelain items, vases, ties, scarves, watches, whole world created around the brand name Leonard.

This whole "Leonard world" is housed and emphasised in the Boutique Leonard, Faubourg Saint Honoré, Paris, run by Nicole Leonard, Leonard's daughter.

In this boutique, the first one of a long list (Cannes, Geneva, Lausanne, Zurich, Dusseldorf, Anvers, Hong-Kong, Singapore more than 60 shops in Japan and representative spaces in Bergdorf Goodman — New York — and in Neimann-Marcus — Dallas), Nicole Leonard has endeavoured to express a typically Leonard image of luxury, which is due to become the example for all present and future Leonard boutiques both in France and abroad. This boutique is to be the international clientele, for whom Leonard is the embodiment of quality and intelligent diversification in all the fields of fashion creation, perfumery and decoration.

An overall feeling of harmony, emphasised by the golden hues, the elegant and refined light, revealed this place as a boutique of dreams, whose fame extends well beyond our frontiers.

From fabrics to fashion, the connecting thread is short and straight. It's an equally short hop from fashion to perfumes. So it was that Leonard Parfums was created in 1969, with Philippe Leonard being appointed chairman.



NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Hafez Pharmacy
Salahuddin St.
Ibn Rushd Pharmacy
Dusail market
Hawalli
Al Nasser Pharmacy
Tunis St.

Salmiya
Ibn Al Nafes Pharmacy
Hamad Al Mubarak St.
Fahad
Burgan Pharmacy
Sabah market
Kheitan
Tasamuh
Ibn Sairoun Pharmacy
Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
4th area

ARTS

Hobby Centre
FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah
14 Feb. Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoyne who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

Valentine's Day
14 Feb: Valentine's Day Special dinner in Messilah Beach Hotel from 8-12 pm. Live entertainment, complimentary bottle of Bulmagne, a red rose for each lady and free raffle entries. Book your table in advance. Call 5624111.

Seminars

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Valentine's Party
VALENTINE'S Party: Come join the fun. Feb 15 dinner buffet-Top Ranks hand, door prizes, Cupid's arrow awaiting! For more information call Nina on 5339623 or Kathy on 2523992 (between 6 and 8 pm).

ACT
ACT's production of Thornton Wilder's comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be presented on February 27, 28 and March 1 at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets can be reserved by calling 5725071 or 5731782.

Konkani drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Soursarant Astana Dint" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Fumatec) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Carnival Fiesta '90
YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighborhood". Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many prizes. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

British Council

THE ITALIAN JOB: Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 February 6.30 pm, 1.30 pm. The title is Italian but the case is most definitely British. Michael Caine and Noel Coward star in this fast, entertaining comedy caper. With wild chases galore, the job culminates with the robbers in their mini cars using the piazza, arcades and roof tops to make their getaway causing the world's biggest traffic jam.

STUDYING, COMPUTING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE IN BRITAIN
Whether you want a short course, a 2-year diploma, a BSc, or a PhD - we have the information you need. Come and visit the Education Office on Monday, 12 February or Tuesday, 13 February and access our computerised database! Our staff will be there to assist you and help find a course to suit you.

One Act Play Rehearsals
Kuwait Players are holding auditions for a selection of one act plays to be staged in April. If you're interested in directing, acting or assisting backstage, do come along to the auditions at 7.30pm on Monday Feb 12th or Tuesday Feb 13th. Please phone 5615357 for details of venue.

French film festival
Danton is today's film to be screened at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium at 7.30 pm. The film is directed by Andree Vayda and is starring Angela Winkler and Gerard Depardieu. Danton is a 136 minutes film produced in 1982.

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Fumatec. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Daniella Fastelahn

Daniella celebrates "Fastelahn" for Dances at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne — Tel: 3710215 ext 29 or Winnie — Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmad, present the Kuwait Folk Group in concert on 14th and 15th February, at 8 pm both nights. Tickets, can be ordered by phoning 3919759.

Videos of the recent very successful pantomime Simbad the Sailor, can be picked up from the theatre on Sunday 4th February from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Singapore festival
SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore festival on 20th and 21st February at The Tent. The oriental extravaganza will present hon dancers, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-ordination with Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at SAS hotel. For reservations, please call 5657000 ext 401 or 403.

Bite 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

Hobby Centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Carnival Dinner Nite

Carnival dinner nite by the Entertainers will be held at the SAS Hotel (The Tent) with music provided by Top Ranks & Perfect Strangers, on 22nd Feb, 1990 from 20.30 hours onwards. Highlights of the evening: Parade by K-Mono, Crowning of Carnival Queen, Ramba Samba dance competition. Group prizes, and many other surprises. For further details please contact: The Organisers, Chopsticks Chinese takeaway. Tel: 5617243.

British Council

Children's film: Wednesday, 14 Feb. at 6.00 pm; Thursday, 15 Feb. at 10.30 am. Five Go To Demon's Rock: The Famous Five go treasure hunting after hearing about a legend of hidden gold in the Wrecker's Cave near Demon's Rock. Join them in their exciting adventure in their search for an old gold coin. 44 min. Admission is free but please book seats by calling Tel: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

Kuwait Welsh Society
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dance Thursday 1st March 1990. At Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912584, 5625316.

...Like a Hurricane
SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265/2543219.

Craft Centre
MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

SPORTS

Steps Ballet
Steps Ballet School thanks the organisers of the Russian Ballet in Cinema Andalus on Feb 2nd and 3rd. We were all very happy to be able to see them perform. It meant a great deal to our students who have never before seen real ballet performed in Kuwait. We hope that it will inspire children who are learning ballet here in Kuwait. Steps Ballet School is open for registration for girls to learn ballet or jazz. Please contact the Kuwait English School afternoons only Sat to Wed 5655216/8 ext 55. Mornings only 9-12 noon 5386481.

7-a-side football

VARCA Sporting Centre will organise its 7th annual one day 7-a-side football festival on February 25 at Sour Grounds to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Friday, February 23 at 10 am. For further details and entry forms please contact VSC members or Tel. 5331940 or 2410461 and 4765070.

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

NBK/MBH Invitation Tennis Tournament

Under the patronage of Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah Governor of Kuwait City. Invitation tennis tournament on Friday 16.2.90 organised by Messilah Beach Hotel in co-operation with National Bank of Kuwait. Doubles and mixed doubles. Many wonderful prizes to be won. Free refreshments and snacks throughout the day. For more details call MBH on 5624111 ext 739, 751.

Filipino darts

ALL Filipino darts enthusiasts are again invited for another meeting to be held on Thursday at 6.00 pm, 15 February 1990, at Mabuhay Restaurant to finalise the organisation of a darts tournament. 301 and Killers shall be played both in singles, while a doubles (blind pairing) shall play a Killers game. Last meeting was attended by 21 participants from Alghamir Industries, Mabuhay Restaurant, RIC and SAS Hotel. Mabuhay Restaurant is sponsoring the tournament. For more information contact William Bassig on 4843988 ext 2632.

فكرنا من الزهر

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Messina delegation in Kuwait

PAOLO MESSINA and Adriano Salomoni visited Kuwait to reaffirm Messina's commitment to serve Kuwaiti merchant's import and export requirements. Messina never ceased its direct call to Kuwait throughout the Gulf war being, thus, the only Italian flag RORO/Container carrier calling directly from Italian ports.

Flying the Italian flag, Ignazio Messina Shipping Co. presently owns and operates 15 modern RORO container carriers according to Capt. Giuseppe Giamboni — owner's representative for Gulf and India/Pakistan based in Kuwait.

Capt. Giamboni further elaborated that Messina is presently operating specialised services to East and West Africa, Mediterranean, Red Sea, Gulf region, India and Pakistan.

He has further announced that Messina re-instated services to Aden in line with market demand, thus serving North and South Yemen.

Ignazio Messina Shipping Co. was established in 1921 by the late Ignazio Messina, and is presently managed by the Messina brothers (Giamboni, Giorgio and Paolo). Capt. Giamboni said that in 1935 Messina services were extended to cover the Red Sea, Saudi Arabia and East Africa.

In 1946, the company further expanded its operation to cover West Africa, and in 1954, Tunisia and Algeria service was added.

Capt. Giamboni revealed that a big turning point for Messina came in 1977 with the inauguration of the La Spezia terminal as the base for its vessel operations enabling the company to provide its customers with the highest quality and dedicated service possible.

He further added that the company is continuously adapting itself to its customers' needs by launching specialised services such as its services to the ports of Hodeidah, Fori Sudan and Aden.

Capt. Giamboni added that the development of services was completed by fitting the company's terminals and offices with a computer network in order to ensure the most efficient and cost effective delivery of cargo.

Ignazio Messina Kuwait is represented by Yusuf Ahmed Alghannim & Sons W.L.L.

Oil market stability praised

DOHA, Feb 10, (Opecna): The managing director of the Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC), Jaber Al Murr has praised efforts by Opec's 13 member countries in striving to restore stability to the oil market.

He told a news conference here that Opec's endeavours since the oil price collapse of 1986 had succeeded to a great extent in restoring oil market equilibrium.

The official predicted that oil prices would improve in 1990 compared with the last few years as oil demand and consumption, particularly from Eastern Europe, increased.

Prices would also be boosted as a result of falling production from oil fields outside Opec member countries in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

He pointed out that in 1989 the United States imported more oil than it produced for the very first time.

Concerning domestic operations, Al Murr disclosed that the second half of the 1980s had witnessed increased exploration activity in the country to boost proven oil reserves.

He noted that the first phase of the giant North Field gas project, due to be commissioned in December this year, would produce 800 million cu. ft. of gas daily, comprising 750 million cu. ft. of gas for domestic use and the remainder in the form of gas liquids and condensates.

Work on the first stage was progressing on schedule, he said, with 70 per cent of the initial work covered, including the virtual completion of the drilling of 16 wells.

In an industry dominated by multinationals, the head of a firm with just 24 employees argues that small is beautiful.

With estimated reserves of 350 million barrels in the Rubiales field in Colombia and up to 20 million in two Turkish fields,

Alshall stock price indices

Market turns mixed

THE Alshall index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday, Feb 7, 1990 an average of 38.95 points with an increase of 0.04 point — 0.10 per cent — over last week's average of Wednesday, Jan 31, 1990. The Alshall index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 67.04 points with an increase of 0.06 points — 0.09 per cent — for the same period, according to Al Shall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 6.18 million shares at a daily average of 1.24 million shares with an increase of 9 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 1.13 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 3.103 million shares at a daily average of 0.621 million shares with a decrease of 49 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.224 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD1.94 million at a daily average of KD0.39 million, a decrease of 19 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.48 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.096 million at a daily average of KD0.019 million, a decrease of 69 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.061 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 47 per cent of total trading against 51 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 33 per cent, followed by The Gulf Bank at 22 per cent and Borgan Bank at 16 per cent.

The investment sector came second at 38 per cent in which, Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 98 per cent, followed by National Investment Company at 12 per cent. The services sector came third at 12 per cent in which, Kuwait Commercial Markets had the lead at 78 per cent followed by Kuwait Cinema Company at 9 per cent and Public Warehousing Company at 8 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Arabian General Investments Company (Shuaa) had the lead at 70 per cent followed by Umm Alquain Cement Company at 21 per cent and Bahrain International Bank at 9 per cent.

The market continued to give signs of weakness which was reflected on three out of the six indices in both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti markets but the trend was more inclined to the weak side. There seems to be an inclination, which started at the beginning of the present year, towards trading in shares other than those of the banking sector.

However, this cannot yet be identified as a trend because it is usual in a weak market that such short periods of weak trading in a particular sector occur.

We believe that the reason behind this, is the recent declaration of the government which stated that a policy aiming at stopping government guarantee to the banking sector's shareholders of their December 1985 equity value, was under discussion. This declaration had a great impact on trading because the banks have deficits and the yearly distribution of dividends is a decision of the Central Bank of Kuwait and not a true reflection of financial positions.

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

First G. Bk. 151.20 151.20 —
Bah. Intl. Bk. 7.61 9.51 -1.90
Bah. M.E. Bk. 56.57 60.61 -4.04
A. Gen. Inv. (Shuaa) 35.45 35.45 —
Umm Al Q. Cmt. 328.57 328.57 —
G. Med. Projs. 55.98 57.91 -1.93

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

The National Bk. 121.52 121.52 —
The Gulf Bk. 29.70 29.70 —
The Comm. Bk. 23.27 23.27 —

—Change points

07/02/90 31/01/90

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

0.44

Al Ahli Bk. 32.80 32.80 —
Bk of K.T. & ME 30.50 30.97 -0.47
Kuwait R. Est. Bk. 28.71 27.86 0.86
Borgan Bk. 26.01 25.60 0.42
K.I. Finance House 75.80 74.15 1.65
Sector Index 47.85 47.44 0.22

Inv. Sector

Kuwait Inv. Co. 9.55 9.55 —
K.I. Int. Inv. Co. 8.59 8.59 —
IFA 28.31 28.31 —

Comm. Facilities

National Inv. 151.25 151.25 —
K.I. Inv. Proj. 57.84 57.84 —
Coast Inv. & Dev. 89.89 89.89 —
Sector Index 91.76 94.12 -2.35

Ins. Sector

K.I. Ins. Co. 35.88 35.88 —
Gulf Ins. Co. 23.08 23.08 —
Al Ahlia Ins. 50.84 50.84 —
Warba Ins. Co. 50.69 50.69 —
Sector Index 35.46 35.74

Real Est. Sec.

K.I. Real Est. 15.04 15.04 —
Utd. Realty 5.04 5.04 —
Nat. Real Est. 39.42 39.42 —
Pearl of Kt. 63.49 63.49 —
Sector Index 15.96 15.96

Ind. Sector

K.I. Cmt. Co. 11.45 11.45 —
Ref. Ind. 84.55 84.55 —
Gulf Cables 116.52 116.52 —
Kt. Pharm. 60.44 60.44 —
Sector Index 30.24 30.24

Services Sector

K.I. Cmtpr. Co. 151.20 151.20 —
K.I. Cinema Co. 7.61 9.51 -1.90
Pub. Whousg Co. 56.57 60.61 -4.04
Kt. Comm. M.Co. 35.45 35.45 —
M. Tele. Syst. 328.57 328.57 —
Sector Index 55.98 57.91 -1.93

Food Sector

L. Trad. & Transp. 29.29 29.29 —
Utd. Fisheries 11.05 11.05 —
Kt. Utd. Poultry 110.01 110.01 —
Kt. Food Co. 74.71 74.71 —
Sector Index 38.88 38.88 —
Overall Index 38.95 38.91 0.04

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

Wed. 07/02/90 31/01/90 Change points

236.84 236.84 —
89.66 89.66 —
94.92 94.92 —
43.18 43.18 —
17.62 17.25 0.37
13.13 13.13 —
67.04 66.98 0.06

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Riyal steady

Quiet day in KD market

KUWAIT, Feb 10, (Reuters): Kuwait's dinar deposits market was quiet today with little trading in the short dates, dealers said.

Overnight, tomorrow-next spot-next and one week were seen at around 8-5/8 3/8 while one and three months, at 8-11/16 7/16, was also little changed from Thursday.

"It was a very quiet day with little action in the short dates," one dealer said.

Six months and a year were unchanged at 8-3/4 1/2. The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate to 0.28998/08 to the dollar from Thursday's 0.29024/34.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal inter-bank deposit rates were mainly steady today in a liquid market which saw little business due to the European weekend.

Dealers reported trade only in overnight funds, which dealt at five pct. Spot-next and one-week were indicated 1/8 point lower at 7-1/2, 1/4 per cent.

A recent influx of riyals from government payments continued to exert downward pressure on rates, the dealers said.

Hong Kong trade team in Kuwait

LEADING businessmen from Hong Kong arrived in Kuwait yesterday for a three day visit, organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

The delegation will hold business negotiations with Kuwait traders at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel where there will be an exhibition on a wide variety of top quality products which include household items, electronics, toys, watches and many other products.

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen wells were drilled off Ireland last year and 1990 is expected to be the same.

Reviewing exploration prospects to

the year 2000, Doherty said: "The great hope for the future is Russia and the East bloc countries. Russia is very under-explored. Very few risky wells have been drilled there. Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are also opening up very rapidly."

Tuskar Resources, named after a rock crowned by a lighthouse off the southern Irish coast, is now based in Woking, England.

"London is the oil centre of the world outside of Houston, you can get the best people there and the communications are very good," Doherty said.

But what of the prospects at home? Less than half a dozen

World Bank pledges support for Indonesia

JAKARTA, Feb 10, (Reuters): The World Bank, the second biggest source of aid to Indonesia, said demand for funds from Eastern Europe would not affect its support to this heavily-indebted country but warned it could not say the same for other donors.

"I don't see any reason why it (World Bank aid) should be less than what we are doing this year, which is very high," bank vice-president for Asia Atilla Karaosmanoglu told reporters today after meeting President Suharto.

Last year the bank pledged \$1.90 billion for Indonesia, the Third World's fifth largest debtor.

The country's aid donors are due to hold their next annual talks in June and Indonesia is already voicing fears that freshly opened Eastern Europe will be seen as in greater need of the available aid.

"I am sure that the World Bank activities in Indonesia ... will not be affected by the developments in East Europe. Of course it is difficult to say what will happen on bilateral aid," Karaosmanoglu said.

Special assistance, for balance of payments and budget support, is widely seen by economists as the most likely to be the target of any cuts by donors.

Many donors disapprove of special aid because they have little control over how it is spent. It accounted for \$1.86 billion of the total 4.30 billion pledged last year.

Karaosmanoglu said despite the country's widely recognised achievements in improving its economy it remained a low-middle income country and still needed quite a bit of assistance.

But growing new needs for assistance were putting a serious constraint on the availability of resources for individual countries and the difficulties in this regard should not be underestimated.

An economic team from Japan, the biggest supplier of aid to Indonesia, visited the country last week but gave no clue as to whether it would lower its lending this year.

He said not only aid would be affected but there would also be increasing demand on private investment.

"In that regard the country which has the best, most predictable economic environment and the healthy infrastructure will benefit from the availability of private investment."

Japan pledges loan to Hungary

TOKYO, Feb 10, (UPI): Japan's Export-Import Bank said today it has agreed to provide a bank-to-bank loan worth 5 billion yen (\$34.5 million) to National Bank of Hungary.

The fund will be used by the Hungarian bank to finance import of capital goods from Japan, the government-financed bank said.

The loan is part of a \$400 million trade insurance package pledged by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu during his visit to Hungary last month, the bank said.

In addition, Kaifu offered a total of \$5 billion united loans to Hungary over the next three years to help promote the country's economic development and reform.

The Ex-Im Bank provided a united loan of up to 8 billion yen (\$55.2 million) to the Hungarian National Bank in May last year in co-financing with the World Bank.

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.240
Sri Lankan rupee	7.330
Pakistani rupee	13.680
Bangladesh taka	8.930
US dollar	200.00
Pound sterling	99.425
UAE dirham	0.7914
Deutsche mark	1.7485
Japanese yen	0.003019

Dairy group looks to Europe, Mideast for growth

VIBY, Denmark, Feb 10, (Reuters): Ripening 200 tonnes of cheese in an old jute sack mine while tourists hike through the echoing caverns and listen to the owner expound on the life cycle of bats may seem a strange way to promote a product.

But for Danish dairy group MD Foods, it's a small part of an ambitious programme designed to grab a bigger slice of the global market and triple its turnover by the end of the century.

"We're aiming for annual group turnover of 30 billion crowns (\$4.6 billion) by the year 2000," executive director Finn Christiansen told a group of visiting reporters.

With turnover of 11.9 billion crowns (\$1.8 billion) in the year to Sept 30, 1989, up 5.5 per cent from the previous year, MD Foods is already one of Europe's biggest dairy firms, and a corporate giant in Denmark.

Share analysts see it as a growing force in the European food sector, able to challenge such giants as US-based Kraft Foods and Anglo-Dutch Unilever in its areas of specialisation.

MD Foods is virtually takeover-proof

because it is a co-operative society, owned by about 12,000 dairy farmers who supply it with milk and elect from their ranks a board of directors who appoint the management.

But through MD Foods International A/S (MDI), a subsidiary set up last October with one billion crowns (\$150 million) paid-up capital, mostly from banks and pension funds, the group is looking actively for overseas acquisitions.

MD Foods markets two-thirds of Denmark's milk and accounts for 90 per cent of its butter and cheese exports, the result of three decades of mergers which have turned thousands of small family farms into a bustling agro-industry.

"We needed a new basis for growth, so we set up MDI to handle production, trading and development of dairy products outside Denmark," Christiansen said.

MDI's task is to look for foreign takeover prospects and strategic alliances and to find and fill gaps in export markets.

MD Foods put up only 150 million crowns (\$23 million) of the capital itself, but has full

control of MDI operations. "It was important for us to control the company because we have the expertise in running a dairy business," said Christiansen. "The institutional investors agreed."

Its institutional backing has also assured MD Foods easy access to funds, such as the 600 million crown (\$90 million) commercial paper programme set up last month.

While dominating the tiny home market of just 5.1 million, MD Foods already exports 51 per cent of its output to 100 countries, and is the world's biggest producer of Feta cheese.

The dairy business is competitive and can be risky. In recent years, the company has had to close one small dairy stricken by the sometimes lethal bacteria listeria, and tried its hand at selling Persian carpets and Pistachio nuts to help the Iranians pay for their huge Feta cheese purchases.

"A touch of listeria in a big dairy would be a major problem," said one company official. "If we halted supplies to a major retailer, com-

petitors would take over at once."

MD Foods is constantly developing and improving new products — such as the gribeset, or cave cheese, maturing 35 metres (100 feet) underground in the moorland chalk caves at a steady 8.5 degrees centigrade (47.3 fahrenheit).

Cheese division director Ole Thing says food production and sales becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few giant companies through domestic and cross-border takeovers.

"Our main customers, the retailers, are becoming bigger and more professional," he said, "they want low prices for fixed quality, fast delivery, space-saving packaging and quick reaction to changing orders."

Christiansen sees West Europe and the Middle East as the firm's main growth areas. "There are big opportunities in East Europe, and we may co-operate in developing the dairy industry there, but East Europe has good potential over the next 10 years to develop its farm sector and may become a competitor."

Wall Street watch

Despite passage of refunding auction

Wall Street still faces some rocky moments

NEW YORK, Feb 10, (AP): The US treasury auction monkey is off the stockmarket's back, but many observers say Wall Street still faces some rocky moments as it tries to sustain a recovery from its January lull.

They warn of potential corporate earnings shocks. Rising interest rates overseas may continue to make home-grown investments more attractive to foreigners. And weakness in the dollar could cut foreign demand here as well.

On the plus side, they say inflation appears to be under control despite a strong increase in wholesale prices in January. The increase was blamed in large part on spikes in food and energy

prices due to unusually cold weather. And they say that the slowing economy may soon inspire declines in interest rates that will make stocks more attractive.

In a word, analysts on both sides of the fence say the next few weeks will be bumpy.

"Getting the refunding behind us is positive for the market. It takes away one of the negatives overhanging the market," said Thomas Czech, chairman of the investment committee at Blunt Ellis and Loewi in Milwaukee.

The refunding auction, which involved sales of \$30 billion in new treasury notes and bonds, had been

nervously awaited by the stock market. Traders feared that rising rates in Japan and other countries would diminish the foreign appetite for treasury issues, forcing the government to offer even higher interest rates to sell all of the new issues.

But demand was strong for the three-year and 10-year notes, and even a lukewarm reception for the 30-year bonds didn't spoil the impression that the refunding had gone fairly well.

Nonetheless, having the refunding out of the way does not guarantee smooth sailing for either the stock or bond markets.

"We have some other clouds to clear up here," Czech said.

He said the weak dollar has been "bothering the stock market" and has given no signs of bottoming out. In addition, he said "disappointing earnings will be with us for a while," hurting stock prices.

He expects the market to move in spurts in a trendless pattern over the next few weeks until "we get a clear sign that inflation is receding."

"We are still facing a market that was wounded in January," said Bill Rafferty, a technical researcher for Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Co.

He referred to a move that took the Dow Jones industrial average to a

record high of 2,810.15 on Jan 2 and then set it careening to a low of 2,543.24 on Jan 30.

The market has retraced about a third of the loss through Friday's close, but Rafferty noted, "it takes a long time to heal the wounds."

Rao Chalasani, market strategist for Prescott, Ball and Turben in Cleveland, expects rates to continue rising in West Germany and Japan as monetary officials there respond to signs of inflation.

He said the Dow Jones industrial average could fall to the 2,400 level in the spring before declining interest rates spark an economic pickup and

provide a lift for stocks later in the year. This past week, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials showed a net gain of 43.50 to finish at 2,648.20 by Friday's close. It was the second consecutive weekly advance as the Dow Jones average rose 43.47 the previous week.

Other readings for the week showed the New York Stock Exchange composite index gained 1.64 to 184.39; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market was up 6.63 at 428.84; and the American Stock Exchange market value index rose 7.23 to 360.79, its strongest gain since rising 7.38 for the week ended Sept 29, 1989.

Bank of Japan governor meets Fed chief

Wait-and-see stance on interest rates

WASHINGTON, Feb 10, (UPI): Bank of Japan Governor Yasuhiro Mieno has not ruled out an interest rate hike by his institution after parliamentary elections are held later this month, a Japanese Central Bank official told reporters Friday after Mieno met with Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan.

Speaking with journalists on condition of anonymity, the official told reporters that Mieno, who succeeded Satoshi Sumita at the helm of the Japanese Central Bank Dec 16, "categorically" denied a Washington consulting firm's report that he would not consider a rate hike.

The Japanese Central Bank chief met Greenspan and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady during the day, Japanese sources confirmed.

A Central Bank official in Tokyo said Mieno was in Washington for talks on monetary issues, including foreign exchange rate stabilisation efforts of the group of seven major industrial democracies.

But a Fed official said Mieno's sojourn was a simple "courtesy visit" during which there would be no official discussions or negotiations.

Foreign exchange and other financial markets have been looking for signs of a Bank of Japan move to hike interest rates to boost the value of the yen and in response to domestic inflationary pressures. Political considerations have ruled out a hike before the Feb 18 elections.

The Japanese official said his government is closely watching trends such as a tightening labour supply, rising oil prices, an increasing money supply and escalating land prices. He acknowledged that a weak yen is putting upward pressure on import prices.

Noting that Japan raised interest rates three times in 1989, most recently by a half a percentage point late last year, the official said Japan's for now has taken a wait-and-see stance on interest rates.

When the Group of Seven met in Washington in September it agreed to restrain the rise of the US dollar. Since then the West German mark has strengthened considerably against the dollar, for economic and political reasons, but the Japanese yen has remained relatively weak.

The United States and Japan both would like to see the yen strengthen against the dollar. This would help redress the US trade deficit by making Japanese

goods more expensive here and US goods cheaper in Japan.

Financial analysts had speculated that Mieno and Greenspan might reach some agreement on how to reinforce the yen.

Political uncertainty has sapped yen strength, as the stability of Japanese financial markets is closely tied to the fortunes of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, damaged by scandals. The government has resisted an interest rate hike, which could hurt it in the Feb 18 election.

The Group of Seven leading industrial countries comprises the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada. G-7 officials meet at intervals to coordinate economic policies in order to maintain the stability of exchange rates and world financial markets.

The United States and Japan both would like to see the yen strengthen against the dollar. This would help redress the US trade deficit by making Japanese

goods more expensive here and US goods cheaper in Japan.

Financial analysts had speculated that Mieno and Greenspan might reach some agreement on how to reinforce the yen.

Political uncertainty has sapped yen strength, as the stability of Japanese financial markets is closely tied to the fortunes of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, damaged by scandals. The government has resisted an interest rate hike, which could hurt it in the Feb 18 election.

The Group of Seven leading industrial countries comprises the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada. G-7 officials meet at intervals to coordinate economic policies in order to maintain the stability of exchange rates and world financial markets.

The United States and Japan both would like to see the yen strengthen against the dollar. This would help redress the US trade deficit by making Japanese

goods more expensive here and US goods cheaper in Japan.

Financial analysts had speculated that Mieno and Greenspan might reach some agreement on how to reinforce the yen.

Political uncertainty has sapped yen strength, as the stability of Japanese financial markets is closely tied to the fortunes of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, damaged by scandals. The government has resisted an interest rate hike, which could hurt it in the Feb 18 election.

The Group of Seven leading industrial countries comprises the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada. G-7 officials meet at intervals to coordinate economic policies in order to maintain the stability of exchange rates and world financial markets.

The United States and Japan both would like to see the yen strengthen against the dollar. This would help redress the US trade deficit by making Japanese

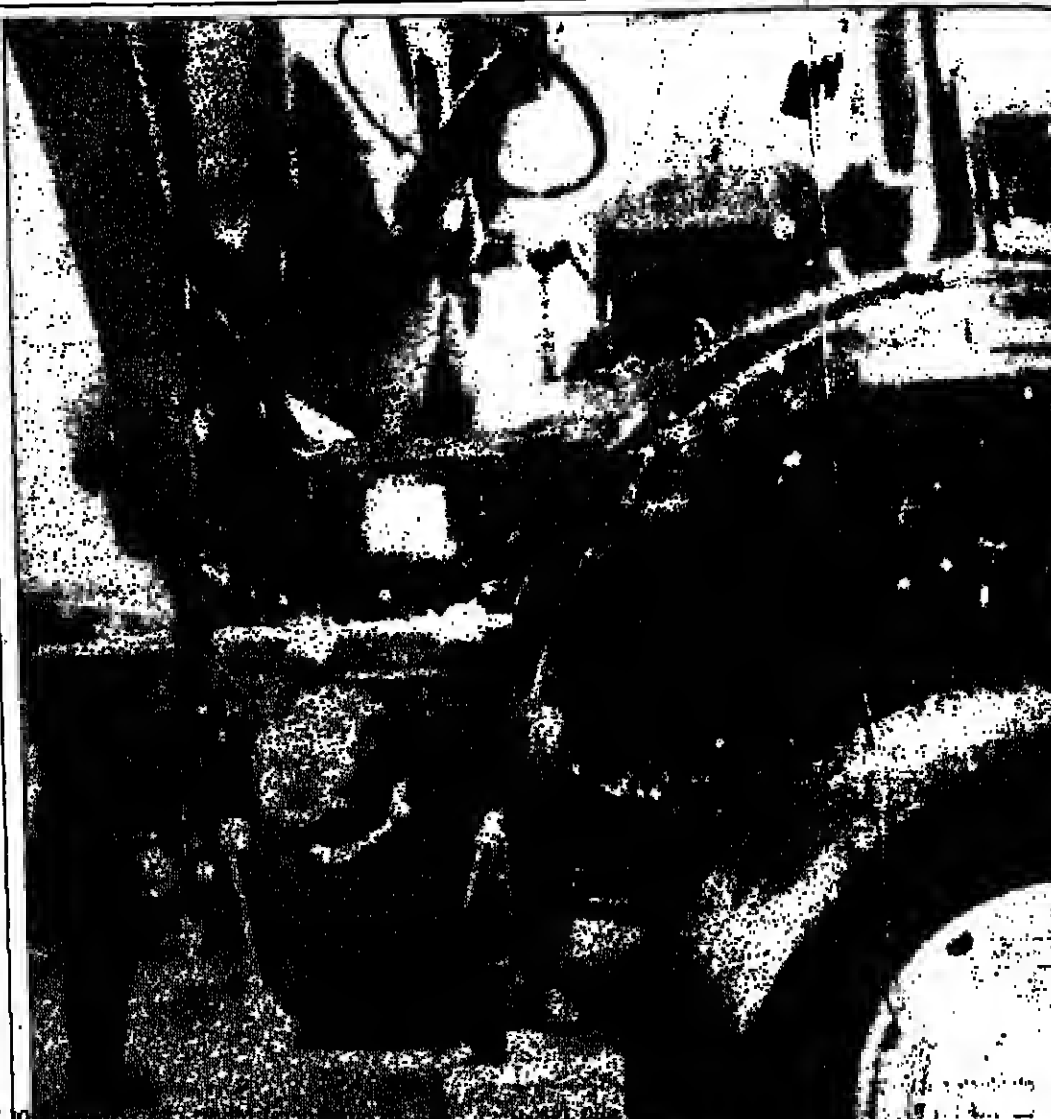
goods more expensive here and US goods cheaper in Japan.

Financial analysts had speculated that Mieno and Greenspan might reach some agreement on how to reinforce the yen.

Political uncertainty has sapped yen strength, as the stability of Japanese financial markets is closely tied to the fortunes of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, damaged by scandals. The government has resisted an interest rate hike, which could hurt it in the Feb 18 election.

The Group of Seven leading industrial countries comprises the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada. G-7 officials meet at intervals to coordinate economic policies in order to maintain the stability of exchange rates and world financial markets.

The United States and Japan both would like to see the yen strengthen against the dollar. This would help redress the US trade deficit by making Japanese



Freight truck exhibition

Three-year-old Vincent van der Sluis, son of a truck driver, tries to climb on board a huge truck during the opening day of an international freight truck exhibition in Amsterdam. (Reuter wirephoto)

Wholesale prices surge

NEW YORK, Feb 10, (UPI): The United States wrapped up its quarterly refunding marathon this week with surprisingly strong global participation that produced higher yields on 30-year bonds, 10-year and 3-year notes.

During the three-day quarterly refunding, the United States sold:

■ \$10 billion in 3-year notes Tuesday yielding 8.43 per cent, the highest since 9.12 per cent May 9 and better than November's 7.77 per cent. The notes, which mature Feb 3, 1993, and have an interest rate of 8.375 per cent, sold at an average price of \$99.857.

■ \$10 billion of 10-year notes Wednesday with the yield jumping to 8.59 per cent, the highest since 9.18 per cent May 10. The notes, with an interest rate of 8.5 per cent, sold at an average price of \$99.40 and mature Feb 15, 2000. The November 10-year notes yielded 7.94 per cent.

■ \$10 billion of 30-year bonds Thursday with the yield increasing to 8.5 per cent — the highest since 9.11 per cent on May 1. The bonds, which mature Feb 15, 2020, and have an interest rate of 8.5 per cent, sold at an average price of \$100 at the November auction, 30-year bonds yielded 7.87 per cent.

Wholesale prices surged by 1.8 per cent in January in the biggest rise since the 1974 energy crisis, fuelled by a huge increase in oil and gas prices, the government said Friday.

Vegetable prices also took a beating, but analysts, who placed the blame on the disastrous winter weather, predicted only moderate inflation for the year.

The unusually large 13.6 per cent increase in energy prices was the steepest since the government started tracking wholesale gas and oil prices in 1974, and the overall increase in the producer price index was the largest since 2 per cent in November of that year, the Labour Department said.

Meanwhile, worker productivity slowed in the last three months of 1989, winding up a year with the smallest gain in the hourly output of goods and services since 1982, the government said Monday.

Some analysts said the report may set the stage for steeper inflation ahead.

In its report on productivity and costs, the Labour Department said worker output decreased by 0.2 per cent in the quarter and the number of hours worked fell by 0.4 per cent — the first decline since the second quarter of 1986 — while hourly pay jumped by nearly 7 per cent.

However, prices for new one-family houses fell slightly in the last quarter of 1989 and rose 2.7 per cent during the year compared with prices for similar houses sold in 1988, the Commerce Department reported Monday.

Analysts noted that during 1989 nation-wide house sales as well as new construction remained at a low ebb due to higher mortgage interest rates.

According to the Census Bureau, the average price of houses sold in 1989 rose 8 per cent to \$149,300 from 1988.

In a finding that could undermine President Bush's plan to cut capital gains taxes, a house committee report said Monday that during the 1980s, the rich paid lower taxes on more income, while the poor felt a sharper tax bite.

The report showed the effective tax rate for the poorest 20 per cent of American families rose 16.1 per cent during the 1980s while real income rose 2.2 per cent.

During the same period, it said, the effective tax rate for the richest 20 per cent of families dropped by 5.5 per cent while their real income rose 31.7 per cent.

Meanwhile, Mexican finance officials and international bankers met Wednesday to sign a pact easing the Latin nation's huge debt burden.

Representatives of about 100 of Mexico's 460 commercial bank creditors showed up to sign papers executing an agreement that will reduce Mexican debt by partial forgiveness. Some of the debt will be converted into discounted bonds.

In Europe, the West German government agreed Wednesday to begin immediate negotiations with East Germany on the establishment of a monetary union between the two states.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel told a news conference in Bonn that cabinet ministers had shown particular interest in a proposed system that would introduce the West German mark into East Germany which would then have to give up its monetary sovereignty.

The proposal for a monetary union is largely seen as a step toward the reunification of the two German states divided since the end of World War II.

domestic energy needs and strengthen the country's economy," Rafsanjani added.

Iran said the plant will be able to process 34 million cubic metres (1.2 billion cubic feet) per day within four months when three other refining units go into operation.

A major portion of the three billion cubic metres of natural gas which the Iranians have agreed to export to the Soviet Union beginning in March, will be supplied by the Kangan and Nar fields.

The Iranians rapidly started rebuilding their oil and gas-related facilities immediately after the Gulf war ceasefire in August 1988 in an effort to boost their foreign exchange earnings.

Repair of gas refinery to play key role

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Feb 10, (AP): Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said today the reopening of the Kangan gas refinery, the second largest in the world, is a key to the country's post-war recovery.

Rafsanjani, quoted by the Islamic Republic News Agency in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus, was speaking on his return to Tehran after inaugurating the repaired plant on the Gulf coast.

He said the total refining capacity of the plant is 80 million cubic metres (2.8 billion cubic feet) of gas per day, drawn from the nearby Kangan and Nar gas fields.

"The project will play a key role in meeting

کتابخانه



Proud mum with miracle baby

Your health

Cholesterol tests spur changes

WASHINGTON (UPI): Public cholesterol screening tests apparently encourage many people to seek advice from their doctor and change their diets to cut their risk for heart disease, researchers say.

A recent study found about 40 per cent of people who had high cholesterol levels on public screening tests went to a doctor to follow up on the results and more than three-quarters reported changing their diets.

Dr Antonio Gotto of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston said his team's study of more than 13,000 people may help rebut recent criticism about the value and safety of widespread cholesterol screening.

In a study published recently in the American Journal of Cardiology, Gotto and his colleagues looked at the effectiveness of cholesterol screening at a variety of sites — shopping malls, workplaces, health care centres, a supermarket, a blood bank and a school.

The study was conducted by a national network of lipid research clinics and was funded by Boehringer-Mannheim, which makes the finger-prick cholesterol test used in the study. Gotto, chairman of Baylor's department of medicine, said researchers had no financial interest in Boehringer.

Overall, 25 per cent of the 13,824 people tested had blood cholesterol levels above those recommended by the National Institutes of Health. That is similar to the proportion found in the general US population.

At each screening site, people were given a written record of their cholesterol results and were told to contact a doctor if their levels were high. Subjects

also received a pamphlet explaining how blood cholesterol increases the risk for heart disease and offering dietary advice on lowering cholesterol.

About two months after the screening, researchers conducted telephone interviews involving about one-third of the people with high cholesterol levels. Forty-three per cent said they had visited a doctor and 10 per cent had made an appointment, researchers said.

"We consider that a very good response," Gotto said.

More than 75 per cent who had seen a doctor said their diagnosis of high cholesterol had been confirmed, and 72 per cent had been prescribed diets to reduce the problem, researchers said.

In addition, about 80 per cent of people who had not visited a doctor reported modifying their eating habits in response to their high cholesterol results.

Government studies have linked cholesterol to coronary heart disease, the nation's No. 1 killer. The percentage of adults who had their cholesterol checked has soared from 35 per cent in 1983 to 66 per cent in 1989.

A recent federal report charged much of public cholesterol screening is unsafe and inaccurate, with up to 25 per cent of tests giving results that are too low. Concerns were also raised that many people with high cholesterol results are not referred to doctors.

Gotto said his study found blood drops "pricked" from finger capillaries registered cholesterol levels about 0.8 per cent to 3.5 per cent lower than simultaneous tests examining blood drawn from the vein. That level is "acceptable," he said.

Alexander's library to rise from ashes

ASWAN, Egypt (Reuters): Doha-buried Egypt, anxious to recapture some of its past glory, this weekend appealed to the outside world for help in resurrecting the biggest library of the ancient world, destroyed by fire more than 2,000 years ago.

How to raise \$160 million to pay for the Alexandria Library is a question Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will put to an international conference in this Nile-side town.

Personalities and leaders including French President Francois Mitterrand, Princess Caroline of Monaco and Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates are expected to join Mubarak.

They are to discuss fund-raising for a new library near the original site in Alexandria built by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.

The Alexandria library was the biggest in the ancient world. The pre-Christian, pre-Islamic library accumulated on one site the world's biggest collection of knowledge on astrology, mathematics, medicine and philosophy.

A fire destroyed much of the library in 48 B.C., as Julius Caesar's legions sacked Alexandria.

Little now remains of the noisy, sprawling Mediterranean port city to show it was ever a centre of culture and learning.

Egypt hopes the library will bring back some of the culture to Alexandria and with it the tourists.

It has pledged 45,000 square metres of land east of Alexandria harbour to build the library and Mubarak has already laid the foundation stone.

Alexandria University officials have begun collecting books and aim to have 200,000 books on the shelves by the time the library is opened in 1995.

A Norwegian architectural firm, Snøhetta, won an international competition to design the library and has nearly finished a 500,000-dollar feasibility study financed by the Norwegian government.

Miracle baby

A tiny baby with a giant heart

MIRACLE baby Rukaya Bailey has won her seven month battle for life after being born one of the world's tiniest tots.

Little Rukaya was born in June weighing just over half a pound after being born an amazing eighteen weeks premature.

Doctors believe Rukaya — whose name means "Gift of Life" — believe she is the most premature baby ever born in the UK to survive.

She was just six inches long at birth — the size of her mother's hand — and given little hope of surviving.

Now she has been allowed home — after spending the first seven months of her life in hospital.

And proud mum Joanna Bailey still has to give her the gift of life by giving her whiffs of oxygen from a specially supplied hospital cylinder.

It's the moment I always hoped for. I just couldn't wait to cuddle her here at home," said Joanna who did not take her daughter in her arms for three months after Rukaya was born.

"No one could tell me exactly how small she was at birth — she was too tiny to be weighed," said Joanna, 21.

"The medical staff estimated she should have weighed as little as eight or 18 ounces and they eventually estimated she weighed 500 grammes, about a pound, but that was only when she was weighed several weeks after birth because she could not be taken out of the intensive care incubator."

For the last seven months single mum Joanna has made a daily

Rukaya, 6 inches at birth, was born 18 weeks early ... and weighed in as one of the tiniest babies. Although she was only a little scrap of humanity, she won her amazing battle for life.

10 mile round trip by bus to hospital from her second floor council flat home in Almonds Close, Salford, Greater Manchester, England, to gaze at her baby daughter.

It's been an agonising time not knowing whether she would survive — and if she did would she be OK.

"It's even been a pleasure getting up in the middle of the night to feed her," said Joanna who was given lessons by nurses in how to care for her extra-special baby.

When Joanna went into labour 22 weeks into her pregnancy doctors told her she was having a miscarriage and that the baby wouldn't survive.

But Rukaya confounded all the medical experts by surviving — with all her faculties intact. The tiny tot who measured just six inches at birth clung on to life — living up to her name.

"When I first saw her after the birth I was in shock and I could only stay and look at her for a few minutes. I felt like that for a few days."

"She was so tiny and had all these tubes and wires sticking out of her. She was put on a ventilator and was fed oxygen through a tube through her nose."

Little Rukaya should have been born on Oct 30 — but by

then she was already four months old.

She remained in intensive care for almost four months before being transferred to the Special Baby Care unit at Hope Hospital, Manchester.

But it was almost three months before Joanna could give Rukaya her first cuddle.

"I was terrified of hurting her when I held her for the first time — she was so small and she had all these tubes sucking out at her."

Doctors only allowed her to feed, bath and change Rukaya at the end of last month.

"It was difficult at first to establish a relationship with her when I hadn't held her for the first three months of her life."

"At first the worst thing was never knowing what I would find when I went to see her — some days she would be off the ventilator but on other days she would be back on it."

"It was like taking two steps forward and then taking 10 backwards."

"Doctors have told me they have never heard of a baby surviving after being born at 22 weeks."

"But the staff have been great with her — I was like one of the family when I went to visit. All the nurses were like extra aunts to her." Thanks to the dedication

of the doctors and nurses little Rukaya now weighs in at a healthy six pounds — more than twelve times her original weight.

"She's so alert and wide awake now and when she sees me she just lies there and stares straight into my eyes."

"She is quite active. Even in hospital she pulled the ventilator and tubes out on several occasions — but thankfully not done any permanent damage."

Single parent Joanna vividly remembers those early moments when she gave birth to her little miracle Rukaya.

"The pretty young man said: 'When the medical staff at the hospital realised she was breathing they rushed her through to the special care unit.'"

"I just thought if she is going to die then let her go now before I became too attached to her."

"When I first saw her her eyes were still fused together like a little kitten's and she was almost transparent."

"She was just so tiny — she could not have been more than the length of my hand."

"She was so small the nurses had to dress her in doll's clothes. I could not believe she was alive."

According to the Guinness Book of Records the previously recorded smallest premature baby known to have survived was a Marion Taggart born weighing 10 ounces on June 5, 1938. She died on May 31, 1983.

"Even the doctors told me it was a miracle."

Joanna added: "A couple of times one of her lungs nearly gave out, but she fought on."



Rukaya's actual size at the time of birth

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Obesity causes pregnancy complications

QUESTION: I was obese (OK, I was fat) when I became pregnant, but my physician is driving me crazy with her insistence that I keep watching what I eat and keep weight increase from getting out of sight. Is all this attention required? I have been overweight most of my life and probably will continue to weigh a bit more than average after the baby, so what is the sense of all this fuss now?

ANSWER: Obesity is always a health hazard, pregnant or not. About 15 percent to 25 percent of all women age 20-29 are obese, a percentage that jumps from 20 percent to 40 percent at age 30-39. If those extra pounds are generally a reason for attention, they are even more so to the pregnant woman. Some 37 complications of pregnancy have been reported as related to obesity, a cause for great concern.

During the pregnancy, extra weight may cause hypertension and problems with blood sugar (called gestational diabetes). Heavy women give birth to larger babies, that can cause difficult labor and require the use of instruments (forceps) to aid delivery, which in turn increases the chances of injury to the baby. Caesarean sections are required more frequently in heavier women, and that can lead to complications stemming from excessive blood loss and infections, not to mention unwanted problems with anaesthesia.

The eye opener is that both baby deaths as well as

deaths of the mothers result more frequently when the mother is overweight. It may not be possible to lose weight during pregnancy, but a carefully planned diet can provide all the nutrition necessary for both you and the baby. However, if you do maintain your weight, you get a unquestionable reward of the chance of losing up to 20 pounds after the pregnancy is over, which is great boost towards achieving your ideal weight, if ever you wish to try to make it.

QUESTION: Do you know of a condition called "phantom limb pain"? Is it real or imaginary? Our young son, a victim of an automobile injury is said to have such pain and we don't know how to deal with it. Please help us.

ANSWER: I believe "phantom limb pain" is used to describe the pain experienced by some patients after an amputation has been performed. The word "phantom" refers to the missing member, not to an imaginary pain. It is a difficult and frustrating problem to treat for the location of the pain is usually in the part of the limb that has been removed.

Experts on this problem feel that the pain is caused by a combination of several causes, some involving the nerves, some psychological. While pain medications are tried at first, including narcotics to help break the cycle of pain perception, it frequently requires a considerable amount of psy-

chological counselling to achieve results. This demands an understanding of the patient's emotional perception of the loss, and discovering ways that address his needs.

Medical treatments include injecting the stump to block impulses that can be originating in a neuroma or nerve tumor. When the pain is caused by a nerve that has become compressed by surrounding tissues, it may be eliminated by surgically relieving the pressure.

Your role in supporting all these efforts and remaining compassionate and sympathetic during this trying time may be the essential ingredient that leads to the relief of the pain, and the return of your son to a normal and productive life. Your letter reveals that he has great talent and much to live for; now, help him see this.

Early detection is the key to surviving colorectal cancer. Learn how to detect symptoms and how to cope if you are diagnosed as having this disease that will strike 145,000 Americans this year. Dr Bruckheim's booklet, Cancer Of The Colon and Rectum, may be one of the most important things you ever read. To order your copy, send \$2.75 to Cancer, P.O. Box 4406, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4406. Make checks payable to Newspaperbooks.

Books

'Sammy' celebrates golden anniversary

HOLLYWOOD (UPI): After some five decades of bitter bandying, "What Makes Sammy Run?" remains one of the best novels written about Hollywood and now stands a good chance of becoming a movie.

Author Budd Schulberg, "Sammy" tells the story of a devious studio mail room clerk who lies, cheats, and steals his way to the top, a despot who became a caricature for many of Hollywood's moguls in the 1940s and 50s.

The name Sammy Glick became a term for describing any human vulture who knifes people in the back without a trace of conscience.

Such heavyweight bosses as Louis B. Mayer, Harry Cohn, Jack Warner, Sam Goldwyn and Joseph Schenck were outraged when the novel was published in 1941. They detected their own ploys and character traits in Slimy Sammy.

Schulberg's portrait was so close to the knuckle that he became a pariah who couldn't find work in Hollywood for years.

Even his father, the powerful B.P. Schulberg, head of Paramount pictures and later an enormously successful independent producer, failed to spare him the wrath of the reigning moguls.

Only 26 when he wrote the best-selling novel, Schulberg went on to win an Oscar for his screenplay of "On the Waterfront" in 1954. But he remained a black sheep until recently.

Schulberg, now 75, is delighted that "What Makes Sammy Run?" is being reprinted this year to celebrate its golden anniversary. Moreover, he has written screenplay from the book, which Warner Bros. has optioned for a film.

Reaction "At the time the book was first published, there was no chance it would become a movie because of the violent reactions of men like Mayer," Schulberg said recently.

"They wanted to run me out of town. Mayer ran this industry like it was his own country. I thought of Hollywood as old Venice and he was the head doge."

"It was unthinkable any of them would produce the movie and thereby expose themselves. In later years the book remained unofficially banned. We produced a TV version and made it a musical on Broadway."

"In recent years I became a bit picky about how it would be made as a movie. I was waiting for someone to make the right offer."

"Now times have changed. New people have come in and they don't identify themselves with Sammy, even though there may be more Sammy Glicks around than in my father's day."

"If the picture is made at Warner Bros., I will be one of the producers."

"What shocks me is how young people in and out of the movies perceive Sammy. When I wrote him he was a terrible human being scorned by everyone. By today's standards he's become a role model for success."

"What is the world coming to? I read an interview with Donald Trump who was accused of being an extreme egotist. Trump said, 'I take that as a compliment.'"

"If you asked Sammy Glick, he would take it as an insult even today. It's an indication of the change our social mores."

"I didn't realize until after the book came out that it wasn't so much about Hollywood as a character who exists in every business and society. Without knowing it, I wrote about a universal character, not just a little Hollywood hustler."

"I had the luck to isolate this kind of person and put him down on paper. I heard from people all over the country in every

walk of life who said they knew Sammy."

"When I first wrote about Sammy in a short story I called him Manny, but my father suggested I change the name to Sammy so people wouldn't think I was writing about Manny Cohen, who helped push him out of Paramount."

Schulberg's publishers thought it would be a good idea to print a new edition of the old best-seller, which sold some 50,000 copies when it first appeared and more than a million in paperback.

"The first printing was only 2,000 copies," Schulberg recalled. "I got a \$500 advance. It sold out before it was officially in the stores. It eventually went into six or seven printings."

"For this edition, I wrote an afterward that traces Sammy's history," Schulberg said. "I've been happy with the reviews after all these years and it's already gone into its second printing."

"One reviewer said there have only been five memorable characters in literature — Don Juan, Don Quixote, Scrooge, Babbitt and Sammy Glick."

"That's very high praise and gives me hope that Sammy will be done justice in the movie version. The big challenge will be finding the right actor to play the part."

Art

Monet's testament to French vitality in last century

BOSTON (Reuters): Three Claude Monet paintings never exhibited before and a "lost" canvas found gathering dust in a warehouse are among some 90 works by the French Impressionist master in a major retrospective at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.

"Monet in the 90s" — the 1890s — groups several "series" of paintings Monet intended as testaments to France's vitality at the end of the last century, including his celebrated images of grain stacks, poplar trees and the Gothic Cathedral at Rouen.

The series — a number of paintings of the same scene from different perspectives over a year or two — were executed during a decade that saw the Impressionist school, which Monet helped to found, under attack.

Monet, ignoring detractors who regarded him as a has-been, eliminated black and grey from his palette to explore changes in light and atmosphere caused by changes in the hour and season in these series of paintings.

The exhibition, which opened recently and travels to Chicago and London later this year, is the first since Monet unveiled these works to display them in the manner he intended — together.

The show includes a painting of Rouen Cathedral that had gone to a private Paris collection after the artist's death in 1926 and has never been on public display.

It is one of three works on show for the first time.

The exhibition also has five paintings that have not been seen since Monet first displayed them at the galleries of his Paris dealers, including one from his cliff scene series of the Val Saint-Nicolas at Dieppe.

Another cliff painting, "Customs House at Varengeville," was donated by a private collector who happened to hear that a major moment exhibition was being mounted. It had not been seen since 1905, according to the exhibition's curator Paul Hayes Tucker, and was found in a New York warehouse.

Fifteen of Monet's paintings of grain stacks are together for the first time in 100 years.

They depict, singly and in Paris, at all hours and in all seasons, the graceful, gently sloped stacks of grain that dotted the French countryside and provided basic subsistence for the country's peasant farmers.

It was Monet's wish that his series paintings would be sold together, but individual works were purchased by collectors and were separated until now.

The paintings were lent from public galleries.

FILIPINO DIGEST

Holdup men shoot 2 cops, cabbie

TWO Quezon City policemen were wounded when three holdup men shot up the jeepney they were riding after divesting them and their fellow passengers of cash and belongings.

The suspects then shot the driver of the taxi they commandeered to be sure he won't follow them.

Pfc. Reynaldo Ramos and Pat. Carl Trinidad suffered wounds in the legs while cabbie Gabriel Tuaoquin, 37, took a bullet in the right leg. Witnesses took them to the East Avenue Medical Centre.

Police said Ramos and Trinidad were on board a jeepney bound for Fairview when three men pulled out an Uzi machine pistol, a 45 and a 38 revolver and announced the heist in front of the Veterans Memorial Hospital.

Police said after taking the passengers, valuables, including the firearms of the policemen, they fired successive shots into the jeepney before jumping off.

After several meters, the suspects flagged down the taxi of Tuaoquin. They got off in front of the Philippine Coconut Administration office along the Quezon Memorial Circle and shot the cabbie before running towards Fairview.

Four dynamite fishermen arrested

LEGASPI CITY: Four illegal fishermen were apprehended Friday in Del Gallego town, Camarines Sur by a combined force of policemen and members of the Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU).

Del Gallego police chief Sgt. Rodrigo Almero identified the suspects as Rodolfo Fabricante, 38, of Barangay San Juan, Leonardo Labanca, 33, of Barangay Sigawawan, Ireneo Siglos, 27, also of Barangay Sigawawan, Ireneo Siglos, 27, also of Barangay Sigawawan, and Allan Tuburan, 17, of Barangay San all of Del Gallego town.

Recovered from the suspects were two bottles of a local wine used as fuel for the improvised dynamite, two pieces of blasting caps, three pieces of igniter pistons, two bancas and four pieces of fishnet.

Lady doctor loses P300,000 to robbers

FOUR heavily-armed men held up a lady doctor Leonida Yap, of 5 Manghugo St., Project 4, Quezon City, at home of some P300,000 yesterday morning in Quezon City.

Armed with 45 pistols and 38 revolvers they ordered her to turn over the P300,000 with which she was supposed to pay some laborers.

Suspect that the robbers would finish her off, Yap immediately handed the cash in an attache case.

The suspects then sped off in Yap's car.

Police later found the vehicle abandoned in front of Queen's Supermarket along Aurora Blvd., Quezon City.

Police suspect an inside job because the suspects were aware that there was a large sum of money in Yap's home.

8-year-old arrested with pickpocket

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD girl was arrested when she agreed to be a decoy for a pickpocket in Calocan City.

"Gusto ko kasing makabali ng damit para sa kapatid kong bunso kaya ako napilitang sumama kay Aling Lyn," the girl said when asked why she went with her neighbour Marilyn Vargas, 29, of 128 Smokey Mountain, Tondo.

Vargas shouted at the girl to shut her mouth and refused to talk to newsmen.

Pfc. Arsenio Nacis said Remedios de Nillo, 40, a teacher, was about to board a jeepney at the corner of EDSA and Gen. Asuncion St., at Morning Breeze Subdivision when Vargas and her male companion bumped her.

"Taga-gigigit lang ang bata" Nacis said.

Witnesses helped De Nillo arrest Vargas.

Investigators said Vargas admitted stealing P300, a school ID and sweepstakes ticket from De Nillo but claimed she passed them on to her companion, one Saya, who escaped.

Youth stabbed over rugby

TACLOBAN CITY: A 13-year-old boy was stabbed and wounded by another youth during a quarrel allegedly over possession of rugby at Serin district here recently.

Police identified the victim as Florentino Ausa, who sustained a stab wound in the stomach and was treated at the city's St Paul's Hospital.

The suspect identified as Robert Baguis, also a resident of Serin District, fled after the stabbing.

Investigation showed that the stabbing was preceded by a quarrel between the two over possession of rugby inside a cellophane.

Customs robbery denied

A BUREAU of Customs cashier who had been accused of stealing P400,000 from the bureau's treasury during the failed December coup by arrested rebel soldier Lt. Col. Billy Bibit yesterday denied taking the money.

Oscar Sto. Domingo described Bibit's allegations as "pure lies" and countered the rebel leader was only making him as a scapegoat.

Now on leave, Sto. Domingo said he had submitted himself to National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and customs probes.

He said on Dec 1, the first day of the coup try, he went to the Customs offices and discovered that rebel soldiers had taken over the whole South Harbour.

Tricycle driver shot dead

A TRICYCLE driver was shot dead for refusing to give his tricycle to three unidentified holdup men Sunday afternoon in Barangay Ubihana, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Police identified the victim as Edwin Santiago, 17, of Barangay Wawang Polo, Valenzuela. He died on the spot from gunshot wounds in the head, chest and stomach.

The gunmen took the victim's tricycle, police said.

Investigation showed that the three men boarded Santiago's tricycle in Barangay Wawang Polo and asked him to take them to Barangay Obihan, Meycauayan where he was shot dead.

Three illegal aliens nabbed

THE CONSTABULARY has uncovered a syndicate allegedly smuggling "human cargo" to the country using Marinduque as an entry point.

The discovery was made following the arrest of three Taiwanese escorted by two Filipino contacts on board a pumpboat at a dockyard in Barangay Kawayan, Mogog, Marinduque last Thursday night.

Maj. Gen. Ramon E. Montano, PC-INP chief, identified the suspected illegal entrants as Ngo Bin Hion, Day Tiak and Tin Shing Kee.

The alleged two Filipino contacts were identified as Rogelio Lim who served as an interpreter/guide, and Ernesto Montayo who manned the pumpboat.

Both are from Batangas City.

The Taiwanese failed to present pertinent papers when arrested by a police team led by Sgt. Isaac de Los Santos of the Mogog police station.

The suspects were onboard a pumpboat marked "Seetie" and docked at the seashore of Kawayan, apparently trying to sneak inland. Montano said initial investigation disclosed that the three Taiwanese came from Pingtung, Taiwan.

They could not present the necessary documents to support their entry, Montano said.

Shabu pusher falls

A 28 YEAR-OLD man was arrested for selling shabu to a policeman posing as an addict yesterday.

Clemente Lubusta Jr., 28 of 58 Manggahan Floodway, Barangay Sta. Lucia Pasig sold P300 worth of shabu to Det. Jogo Santiago.

Two of Lubusta's companions, businessmen Romeo Velasco, 27, of Mercedes Ave. Barangay San Miguel and Aguelles Villarin, 28, of Dona Juliana, Barangay Sta. Lucia, both in Pasig were then caught sniffing shabu on the second floor of Lubusta's house.

Lubusta told Sgt. Roberto Gonzales his shabu came from a certain Leon of Paranaque. He sold some five grams of shabu weekly. Lubusta said.

Sakla, tupa da raid

SOME 100 bettors were rounded up when Quezon City policemen raided an illegal cockfight and a sakla den yesterday morning.

Major Rogelio Rosales said policemen led by Sgt. Jose Gallardo Jr. swooped down on a compound in Barangay Mendez, Baesa at 10:30 am and seized 17 fighting cocks, sakla cards and other gambling paraphernalia.

Capt. Arturo Navarette said residents who conducted the illegal cockfight had sought his permission to raise funds for the construction of a chapel.

Bert Rosales said he does not know who organised the cockfight.

President Aquino is still standing tall

By Yakub Razaqne
Arab Times staff

PRESIDENT Corazon C.

Aquino of the Philippines still

commands support and respect

of the majority of the people

despite recent political and

economic upheavals. "Cory" as she

is popularly known to her coun-

trymen continues to march on

relentlessly in her determination

to fulfill her promise to the 60-

million Filipinos of alleviating

poverty and improving the stan-

dard of living. While certainly it

has been tough going for this

petite former housewife, Aquino

is more than the head of this

couple-prone and impoverished

Far Eastern republic, but has

become a veritable symbol of

democracy, freedom and justice.

Whatever her critics may say and

there are quite a few, this "little

lady" has succeeded not only in

surviving six serious coup attempts

to topple her in the last few

years, but has even managed to

yield some good results in reviv-

ing a fledgling economy by

executing a number of well-

timed and positive measures.

The past month has been a

crucial period for Cory as

president. She has gallantly over-

come a number of potentially

dangerous threats against her

and silenced a number of her

adversaries and critics by in-

vestigating reforms in both the

political and economic areas.

Her survival and whatever suc-

cess she has achieved so far must

be credited to her loyal group of

supporters, the influential Catho-

lic church under Cardinal Sin

and perhaps above all to General

Ramos, Defense Secretary,

Aquino's most ardent ally and

friend.

Life goes on in Manila. At least

that is what appeared to me dur-

ing my recent visit to the Philip-

pires. Never has the mood been

so buoyant and optimistic as now

among the ordinary Filipinos.

Having talked to a number of

working class Filipinos compris-

ing of taxi-drivers, waiters, bell-

boys and even prostitutes I have

come to the conclusion that the

common Filipino wants to just

get on with his life and the busi-

ness of living. The daily struggle

to earn few pesos for meals and to

pay for the basic bills is top

priority of all Filipinos now. It

seemed to be that generally peo-

ple are sick with politics and

politicians. Their main concern is

to overcome poverty and attain a

reasonably decent standard of

living. After a relatively prosper-

ous period during the sixties,

when the Philippines ranked as

the second richest Far Eastern

country after Japan, the abject

poverty of today has come about

as a big shock. Filipinos are a

proud and hospitable race and

the current standard of living has

denied their spirit and morale to

a certain extent.

Despite the economic hard-

ship, one thing that never ceased

to amaze me and invest a sense of

admiration is the way the

Filipinos have taken even the

worst misfortunes in their

strides, but continue to slog with

a perpetual smile—a hallmark

of Filipino national character.

Wherever I went I witnessed the

gaiety of the Filipino character.

People, even those in Manila's

slums, have not forgotten to

smile, laugh or sing. Perhaps the

greatest quality of a Filipino is

his reluctance to expose his per-

sonal problems to foreigners, but

to reveal his traditional hospita-

ble character of sharing and giv-

ing, even in a smile. On more than

one occasion I was touched by

this aspect of Filipino life.

The whole country seemed to

me to wake up gradually from a



President Aquino

nightmare of recent unfortunate

events as the ordinary people, the

backbone of people's power

revolution of '86, look forward

to a new dawn of progress. The

new successes of Cory, albeit

modest but nevertheless crucial

in rekindling confidence and

hope among the coup-weary but

hopeful populations, have defi-

nately increased her popularity

and given her room to accelerate

her economic policies. Cory has

attained a measure of success so

far following the sixth and most

serious coup against her govern-

ment. Perhaps a leading Manila

columnist has rightly said in a

recent editorial: "Everytime it

takes a coup for Cory to be

reminded of her duties".

However, to be fair to Aquino

lack of a stable political atmos-

phere since coming to power has

constantly hampered her efforts

to push for economic reforms.

Today the road towards econo-

mic progress, although a daunt-

ing one, appears to be clear for

Aquino, thanks to a number of

recent events.

Perhaps the most welcome

news for Cory is the recent cap-

ture of Brigadier General

Edgardo Abenene, the key rebel

leader of last December putsch.

Abenene's arrest in Quezon City,

outside Manila, has given Cory's

administration a big boost as it

certainly broke the back of RAM

and put to ice at least for the time

being any attempts for these at

large rebel soldiers to regroup

and stage another coup. Even

before Abenene's capture, I wit-

nessed that the constant coup

rumours prevalent in the country

were not taken seriously by most

people. The public simply did not

care whether another coup took

place or not. However, their faith

in Cory resigned strong. I sensed

by the number of conversations I

had with people both in Manila

and Baguio City, Philippines

summer resort, a lot of Filipinos

are not sure whether replacing

Cory with totally unknown can-

didates or even army officers will

prove beneficial in the long run.

Cory inspires hope, perhaps the

only hope for her people. The

alternative doesn't look too

bright. Most people here are

against violent toppling of the

government, but believe in the

ballot in electing the president.

While it is true that Aquino's

administration has been riddled

with a number of indecisive

policies and actions—even her

most ardent supporters will

accept that—the people are will-

ing to give her the chance to bet-

ter their lives and for this they are

ready to put their destiny at her

hands.

Cory, on her part seems finally

to come out of her shell and

defensive posture with a series of

quick and decisive sets. Her per-

formance of late has been com-

monable. The government

recently raised the allowances of

soldiers intensified infrastruc-

ture projects, sent Trade

Secretary, Jose Concepcion, to

Japan to accelerate Japanese as-</

Mina Gabor: products, people, places

BREATHLESSLY seeking Mina — is how getting to interview Mina Gabor could be described.

Ms Gabor is not — someone from her office at the Department of Tourism (DOT) says over the phone, adding that she has proceeded to her other office at the Center for International Trade and Exhibitions and Missions (Citem).

Yes, she was just here, someone from Citem answers, but she has proceeded to the Philippine International Conference Center (PICC) for the dry-run of the DOT's Kalakbay Awards. A call to PICC and one is told, yes, she was in a minute ago but she has gone on to the Manila Pavilion for a meeting.

Dial, dial and finally Manila Pavilion says Ms Gabor is there and they're recalling her. A not-so-breathless Mina comes to the phone.

An interview? She laughs, is surprised. She rattles off a day, a time, a place — unbeknownst to her secretary. This spells the start of a merry chase. Getting to know Mina means three sit-downs, ever interrupted interviews — one at DOT, another at Citem, then at home.

As her name — Mina — suggests, the lady is a minefield of creative energy ever ready to explode. In another sense she's a gold mine of ideas that, if translated into tangibles, could mean added gold — green gold for dollar-strapped Philippines.

Mina wears several hats. A few months ago, President Aquino appointed her Undersecretary of Tourism for Promotions. This, on top of her being the president of Citem, (a position she has held since Citem's beginnings in the Marcos days) and head of the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation. She also hosts a Sunday (1 to 2 pm) TV show Export Manila in the Philippines which is the only one of its kind and for which she receives no talent fee. Travels? Plenty of them.

So how does she pack it all in? She enjoys her work. "When the time comes that I no longer enjoy and derive satisfaction, that means I have to move on to something else," she says. This is as she rummages through the ubiquitous basket that is ever by her side, even during long-gone affairs. The basket holds a bundle and one thing. She fishes out a headband, pill and makes.

known the throbbing in her head. She smiles and mentions two or three tourism-related meetings scheduled for that afternoon. It means, can we resume conversation another time?

A bland and calculating government bureaucrat she is not. Mina has a down-home style in dealing with people. "Titles don't matter to me," she quips. "I could be talking to ordinary people or people in very high positions and they are all the same to me. Remember I used to have my own company where I had to deal with all kinds of people."

Her Sunday TV show is in fact about people, too. It showcases non-traditional export products — from lumpia wrappers and banana leaves to Christmas decor, babydresses and furniture — but Mina always also focuses on the people behind the products. It's like she wants to say — "Look, they did it, you can, too." The show features unlikely people making unlikely products.

Her show is in fact interesting not only to exporters and would-be exporters, but also to those who simply want to be entertained. One time she guested several young people (in their early twenties) who were exporting frogskins, wood carvings and quilts.

"And where is your office?" Mina would usually ask young exporters. Almost always they would say they're operating from their parent's home or garage and that they're using the family phone and the family car to push the business. "Aha!" Mina would exclaim and then wonder aloud about the resourcefulness of "young people these days."

A few weeks ago Mina featured a young lady, fresh from college, who had put up her own international cargo handling company. Some episodes would have Mina walking through an antique shop dripping with opulence, other times she would be in a steamy factory for banana chips. During live shows she'd be surrounded by her guests' creations — bags, food preserves, home furnishings, clothing and accessories, baskets, baskets and baskets — all going to foreign lands. How she revels in all this show of Filipino creativity.

But who is Mina, what is she? Her name rang a bell even then, people who hear her name now say, Or, her face is very

familiar, like she's always been into something.

In her younger days Mina was already in the public eye. She did some modelling, she hosted a TV show for kids for a while, she did some writing, she was into fashion (Mina Gabor label), then into exports. She even worked for the United Nations as consultant.

People — she knew a lot of them. She went to out-of-the-way places. She was one of the first to set up a buying office. She was familiar with all kinds of exportables "except the industrial ones."

In 1983, Mina was recruited to head the newly created Citem, a government trade promotions agency under the Department of Trade and Industry. (After four months on the job she launched the first market week which carried garments). This meant goodbye to her family enterprise and going into public life.

Citem is located at the CCP complex near the Buendia junction. Its exhibit halls permanently showcase Philippine products classified into apparel (garments and textiles, fashion accessories, footwear and leather goods), industrial goods, gifts, toys and houseware, furniture and furnishings, food and plants. Meeting facilities are available for buyers and manufacturers. Citem facilitates purchases and contact with suppliers. It also helps in upgrading products.

Citem also has a showcase at the international airport. Even with the fall of the Marcos dictatorship and the coming to power of the Aquino government, Mina stayed on, although somewhat expecting to go any time.

"Last year I was thinking of leaving government," Mina says thoughtfully. And then President Aquino called for her to also join the Department of Tourism's promotions programme. This, to Mina, was some kind of assurance that her services were appreciated. "I was happy but the appointment also meant I had to work even harder." The President brought her along during her USS State visit in October last year. Mina was to help push the Philippines' non-traditional export products.

She dismisses detractors who have said the President had gone down to the level of a "promo girl" during the US State Visit. Mina would rather get excited



Mina Gabor pushed the Golden Shell awards for exporters: slave and slave drivers

over the fact that in May, J.C. Penny's 1,047 stores will be showcasing Philippine products worth some \$33 million.

Mina means projects, projects, projects. Her peak — 56 projects in 52 weeks of the year. Projects consist of market weeks, setting up committees for product selection, trade fairs, seminars for exporters, and so many others. Her new tourism post means even more projects of a different type. But, she explains, tourism is very much interlinked with exports. Buyers come and they not only look at products, they also go to the places where these things are made. They explore.

So how does Mina get to do all her interweaving jobs? Delegate, delegate, delegate, is her answer. "I plan very tightly. I'm very project-oriented and so I know how to get people moving. It's human nature — people want to show they can be left alone to do things. It is only at critical points that I come in. Like if a project involves a videographed show then I really sit down to preview it." A slave driver, her secretary at Citem fondly describes her.

Through the years Mina has learned other things necessary for selling. "Colors are very important. Even if your product is good, if your color is wrong, you cannot sell. Lighting for the displays is also important."

Citem has product consultants who are foreigners to advise Filipino suppliers about market requirements abroad.

Mina's public life intrudes even into her private life. "I always have a notebook and pen besides my bed. When I have ideas I get up and write them down so I don't forget."

Not very long ago Mina sort of

huddled down under the pressure of work. "I almost died. My blood pressure shot up and I lost consciousness." Every now and then Mina has to reach for her basket for a pill or two.

There have been work-related

emotional lows too but she'd rather not dwell on them. All she will say is that one time it was so bad even her husband Joe was affected and she had to down a tranquilizer. "I slept through it like a baby and when I woke up the morning was as Joe still pacing beside me, so distraught, saying, 'Of all people, why does it have to be you they'd do this to?' He hadn't slept a wink and I felt so sorry for him."

Mina describes her husband as

"very supportive" of everything she does. "I first check out my ideas with him. He keeps my feet on the ground. Of course, we also disagree a lot. But he listens and when there are problems, he tells me, 'It's not as bad as you think

From the provinces

LEGASPI CITY: Brig. Gen. Marino Filart, Bicol PC-INP chief, has filed a P4-million libel suit against Sen. Ernesto Maceda with the office of the city prosecutor.

The libel case arose from a news report headlined "That's why PC brass were left out of national police — Maceda."

In his two-page complaint filed with the office of City Prosecutor Vicente Perahia, Filart stated that Maceda was quoted as saying "the Senate deliberately excluded PC generals from the proposed Philippine National Police mainly because of their illegal activities."

"Let them retire and enjoy their loot," Maceda was quoted in the news report as saying.

The complaint said Maceda was also quoted as saying "the PNP should be spared from graft and corruption." He was obviously referring to the PC generals as grafters, Filart said.

Filart said in his complaint that Maceda's statements conveyed the false public impression that he (Filart) is a "looter, grafter or corruptor involved in illegal gambling, drug trafficking and coddling of criminal syndicates."

BALANGA, Bataan: A military commander attributed the other day the reverses suffered by the New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas in Bataan to the change in the attitude of the people towards the communist movement.

Col. Ramsey L. Ocampo, Bataan PC-INP commander, said the people have come to realize that their long years of silence and apathy towards the government's campaign against the communist rebels have not done them and the country, in particular, any good.

Ocampo said that tips by "concerned citizens" to the military about the presence of NPA terrorists in their villages in the past several months had resulted in the capture or surrender of many of the rebels. Those who chose to fight were killed, he said.

He lauded concerned citizens for their assistance and patriotism. He expressed hopes that they will continue to support the government's campaign against the communists.

Ocampo said that the military cannot hope to pull an end to the insurgency problem unless it enjoys the people's support. The military cannot win the fight against the "barrel of a gun," the Bataan PC-INP commander said.

FORT SAN FELIPE, Cavite: A commander of one of the biggest facilities of the Philippine Navy has warned that if a coup d'etat succeeds, there will be more coup attempts after that.

He said that the government that will surface after the coup will be a "junta" or a group that will later eliminate each other with the strongest becoming the "strongman" or "dictator."

The warning was echoed by Navy Captain Antonio Suratos, commander of Naval base Cavite, as he leads his officers and men, and civilian personnel, in pledging allegiance to the constitution.

Suratos, who is also deputy commander of the Philippine Fleet, cited the experience of Argentina under Juan Peron where on coup succeeded another attempt for years. "And because of the situation, that nation still suffers at present," he said.

He appealed to his officers and men, including the civilians, to always maintain high degree of professionalism "so they can always protect their sworn duties of protecting the Filipino people and the country."

QUEZON CITY: Four gunmen claiming to be members of the New People's Army (NPA) liquidation team shot to death a contract worker apparently mistaken for a Quezon City barangay chairman marked for assassination by communist "hit men."

Police identified the victim as Wilfredo Dimaano, 38, of 42 Ubudan St., barangay Manresa, QC. He suffered bullet wounds at the back of the head, nape, and left side of the body.

Probers said Dimaano, a contract worker who is on vacation, was mistaken by his assailants as barangay

captain Saturnino Paras of Manresa. Dimaano and Paras have striking facial resemblance. Dimaano was walking along Tindalo St. barangay Manresa at about 8.30 am yesterday when the four unidentified men, armed with .38 and .45 caliber hand guns, shot him at a close range.

Witnesses told probers that the killers pumped in bullets into Dimaano even as he lay mortally wounded by the first shot fired by one of them.

BINONDO: A young businessman engaged in selling of ladies wrist watches was found dead in his room in a Binondo condominium on Asuncion St. Binondo.

Cpl Chit Santos, investigator of the Western Police District's (WPD) homicide section, identified the slain businessman as Howard Tan, 24. The body bore multiple stab wounds. It was found inside his room at 414 on 4th floor of the Jespejo Realty Corp. condominium.

His room was in total disarray. His money and other personal belongings were missing. Police found hundreds of female wrist watches in the room.

Witnesses told police that Tan and the assailant had a heated argument inside the room. They later heard the victim screaming. They later saw the attacker hurriedly leaving the room.

Meanwhile, two female pushers from Isabela were arrested by a special team of the WPD theft and robbery section during a routine check on C.M. Recto Ave. in Tondo, Manila.

Capt. Nilo Jambalos, chief of the section, identified the two suspects as Lydia Cardo, 42, and Nena Tuclin, 40, both of Alicia, Isabela. Police seized from them two cartons of dried marijuana leaves worth P500,000.

The two said they bought the prohibited leaves in Isabela and were about to deliver to a certain "Roy Sanchez" in Pasay City.

MARIKINA: Two persons were killed while 18 others were hurt in two vehicular accidents in Marikina, Metro Manila.

Police identified the fatalities as Raymond Vergara, one year old; and Brigida Lastimosa of Montalban, Rizal.

In the first incident, a cargo truck bearing license plate PBB 706 lost its break, causing a four-vehicle collision.

Reports reaching the police said that the cargo truck bumped a Lancer car, a taxi cab, a delivery truck and a dump truck when it went out of control.

The delivery truck with plate number PLD-318 plowed through the nearby shanties, killing Vergara and injuring several others.

Among those injured were as Fortunata Agudo, 21; Julieta Valejo, 26; Renato Vallejo, 8; Michael Vergara, 33; Reyco Lusong, 23; Ana Patron, 23; Anabel Patron, one-year old; Jose Aligue, 13; and Anthony Alisara, 2. They were taken to the Quirino Memorial Hospital in Quezon City for treatment.

The drivers of the dump truck and the delivery truck escaped after the incident.

Several hours later, Lastimosa was killed when she, along with her four-year-old daughter, Janice, and her mother, Maria, 69, were hit by an Isuzu dump truck along J. Rizal corner Lapu-Lapu St. in Concepcion, Marikina.

All of them were rushed to the E. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital. Two of them survived.

Juanito Rada, driver of the dump truck, said that he accidentally hit three while crossing the street early yesterday morning.

Rada is now detained at the Marikina police headquarters facing homicide thru reckless imprudence.

MANILA: Manila Mayor Gemiliano C. Lopez Jr. has approved an ordinance prohibiting cargo/hauler trucks, including garbage trucks, from passing city streets without "protective covers."

This was learned from Councilor Flaviano P. Concepcion Jr., main author of the measure now known as City Ordinance No. 7721.

Concepcion said the new law will take effect on Feb. 4, one month after its approval by Mayor Lopez who signed

it into law. Concepcion, who belongs to the LDP, said that violators of the ordinance are to be penalized with imprisonment for not less than 30 days or more than six months or a fine of P1,000 or both depending upon the discretion of the court.

The Tondo Alderman stressed that both the drivers of uncovered trucks or vehicles and their owners are subject to penalties.

Other co-sponsors of the ordinance were Councilors Ernesto C. Dionisio, Francisco G. Varona, Jr., Marcoron R. Caballes, Julio E. Logara, Jr. and six other aldermen.

MANILA: Manila Councilor Nestor C. Ponce, Jr. (L.P. second district) assailed yesterday the proliferation of motels, beerhouses, fun and game houses near schools in violation of existing city ordinances.

Ponce said that city ordinances prohibit the operation of motels, and other fun houses within 200 meters from schools, church and public buildings.

He called on city hall officials to close the motels, beer houses and other fun houses near schools violating city ordinances.

Ponce said one each motel operates across Far Eastern University in Moraya and another in the second floor of the University of the East commercial center.

"There are hundreds more of similar establishments fronting at lodging inns including beer, disco houses, billiard and computer games within a walking distance from schools which should be closed immediately as they disturb or distract students from their studies and contribute to their moral decay," Ponce said.

"I wonder why these establishments continue to exist when City Hall could easily cancel or deny annual renewal of their business permits for violation of city ordinances," he said.

"I challenge Mayor Lopez to take the necessary action and to relieve city officials responsible for these apparent dereliction of duty," Ponce said.

The Tondo alderman also appealed to Mayor Lopez and Western Police Superintendent Col. Ernesto Dionisio to immediately stop the publication and circulation of a number of daily tabloids for inserting "bed time stories" in their publications to attract readers.

CAMP BAGONG DIWA, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila: Brig. Gen. Alexander P. Aguirre, PC Capital Regional Command (Capcom) chief and Metropolitan Police Force (MPF) director, stressed to policemen yesterday that lawmen are not supposed to be implementers of penal laws because their task is to prevent the occurrence of crimes.

This was stressed by Aguirre during a visit to various police stations. He said that policemen should act as peace officers and "not as judges."

"File the cases against the violators. Then it will be the court system that will do the implementation of the penal laws," Aguirre said.

The Capcom chief pointed out to law enforcers that they should take pride in wearing their uniforms.

"If you are proud of your uniform, then you are proud of your profession. Act with dignity in the presence of the public by wearing proper uniform," he said.

COTABATO CITY: (Reuters): Muslim separatists denied involvement in Sunday in the murder of a Swiss Red Cross official and a Filipino companion in Mindanao and pledged to help the military capture the killers.

An army commander in Maguindanao province, where Walter Berweger and his Filipino driver were gunned down in an ambush on Friday, said initial investigation showed the victims were shot by a group of teenage boys demanding money.

"We are revolutionaries and we will never allow any kind of offense against non-combatants, especially Red Cross workers," Muslim rebel leader Musimben Sema said.

"We will, in this instance, help our enemy (the Philippine military) run after the killers for the justice of the slain Red Cross people," Sema said in a statement released here.

Miss Saigon in Europe



READERS have been asking for the latest on the Filipino talents in the Miss Saigon musical, so here's an update.

The musical is now the top show in London. However, it may not get to New York until 1991, due to the unavailability of theater large enough to accommodate the complex production.

All of the Filipinos may be asked to extend their contract with the London show for six more months.

Auditions for new talents will be held in Manila in February. Around the middle of that month, the cast album of the musical will be available, so new talents will have an easier time in the auditions because they will be able to hear the pieces that they are being considered for, unlike the members of the first cast, who had to audition "blind", without knowing what the producers were looking for.

Thus, we can expect more Filipinos being able to meet the vocal and acting standards required by the musical's Asian leads, so there could be new Kims, Thays and other principal Vietnamese characters coming from the talents who join the latest round of auditions.

The thing, of course, is for the new auditionees to use the LP just as a guide as to the vocal and emotional levels required by the parts, and not to copy the vocal performances of Lea and the musical's other leads. After all, roles are adjusted to fit a particular performer's temperament and personality so the "attack" towards the role should vary from one talent to another.

Is there life after Miss Saigon? In other words, what happens to the Filipino talents after all of the extensions, etc.? That question is answered in a very heartening way by this piece of good news: Some Filipinos in Miss Saigon have auditioned for a production of the famous musical, The King and I, which will go on a performance tour of Europe, and, of the five talents who auditioned, three clinched big roles in the show.

We are not at liberty yet to identify them, pending resolution of contracts, etc., but we can say that one of them got the role of Lun Tha, another has been asked to play the maiden he loves, and the third talent is being asked to understudy the role of Lady Thiang, the King's first wife.

'Mr Irony' of Philippine sports

By Recah Trinidad

JAIME SEBASTIAN of the Philippines, the strongest man in Southeast Asia, lives in a country with one of the weakest economies in the region.

Isn't that odd? The reigning super heavyweight champion in the Southeast Asian Games can hardly afford his breakfast.

That makes him a sporting oddity. Or, because he happens to be the finest iron pumper this side of the globe, Sebastian could readily be tagged (excuse the pun) as Mr Irony. But don't laugh now.

Sebastian, 33, five-foot-nine, a full 270 pounds, baby-faced and with the charm of a gentle giant, eats a breakfast enough to feed two families.

His regular morning pre-workout fuel consists of at least a dozen fresh eggs, two liters of fresh fruit juice, a loaf of bread, and some butter, please.

Now, if you think that's enough breakfast for three families, pardon the weightlifting champ because, he says, he could add at least six more fresh eggs and more fresh juice when he's grunting for a big competition, like the SEA Games or the Asian. At the moment, Jimmy swears he's just something like 65 to 70 per cent into training.

Jimmy works out in a decrepit, half-lit gym at the Rizal Memorial complex, pumping and pressing rusty barbells which have visibly surpassed their years of usefulness.

"Panahon pa'to ni Mike Keon," Jimmy assesses the rusty, battered weights loosely latched onto a shaky stand.

In a way, Jimmy is saying that Philippine sports cannot afford itself. And, although he doesn't say it, Jimmy is one of the victims of the neglected sports programme.

A country's economy is usually reflected in its sports programme. So a truly faithful picture of the state of Philippine sports should be Jimmy Sebastian, his face lightless, having a breakfast consisting of a plate of bumble rice, on tuyo (dried fish), with only a glass of water to push the poor man's meal down.

Now, if you think that's rather exaggerated, why not try and find out how much Jimmy earns and how much he spends for his training food alone.

Other than a whoopier of a breakfast, Jimmy has to regularly feast on a lunch consisting of no less than one and a half

kilos of lean meat, eight potatoes, rice and salad. If there's no meat available he reluctantly settles for at least two chickens — a poor substitute, he swears.

The champ sort of slows down and takes a light dinner: three medium-sized fish, three potatoes, milk, no rice.

Doing some impromptu accounting, Jimmy says his breakfast, compulsory vitamins, lunch and dinner, excluding that of his wife, a physical education teacher at the Colegio San Agustin in Makati, run up to a little over P250 a day, medyo tipid pa. All in all, these add up to something like P5,000 a month.

And his monthly salary as a master sergeant in the Philippine Air Force department of special services?

"My basic pay," explains Jimmy wily as he wipes sweat off his mountain of a shoulder, "is P2,350. Plus a little allowance, I get a total of P4,000 a month."

And his food expenses alone, not to mention those for house

rent, clothing, and other necessities, total P5,000!

Jimmy, still childless, is a big loser any which way you read his impromptu computation. But he's taking everything with a shrug of his powerful shoulders. There's no backing out at the moment. He has been winning the gold medals as a super heavyweight in the Southeast Asian Games since 1977 and, much as he had tried, he cannot see his possible successor at the moment. Or for the next five years to come.

Now, doesn't that project him as a super sucker, a sort of native Hercules patiently pushing back the sky, because nobody else is capable of perpetuating the glory act?

Jimmy promises to hold on, ward off the ever-growing threat of power lifters from Burma, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, for as long as he can.

"It's a heroic gesture, to say the least, for the one-time football aspirant from Zamboanga who was forced off the playing turf after his doctors discovered

he was suffering from a rheumatic heart, aggravated by dizziness and fainting spells.

He doesn't say it, but his selfless dedication to weightlifting could be his way of saying thank you to the sport that saved his life and turned him into a modestly celebrated macho machine. Warned never, never to try any strenuous activity, Jimmy, only 17, sneaked out and started working out in a weightlifting gym upon the advice of his uncle, sportsman Fabian Bucoy.

Jimmy worked (reluctantly, lifting light loads, no more than 70 pounds, mainly meant for progressive resistance training (PRT). He did this for one whole month. He next visited his doctor who, upon diagnosing that the rheumatic heart had healed, told Jimmy he should be thankful that he followed instructions and did not do any physical training. Amused, Jimmy had to make a real effort not to laugh. He walked quietly out of the clinic straight back into the gym. He has never ceased to pump weights since.



Jimmy can jerk a total of 190 kilos, a weight that would require five average men to hoist.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



GATTA CRUM



BEETLEBAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



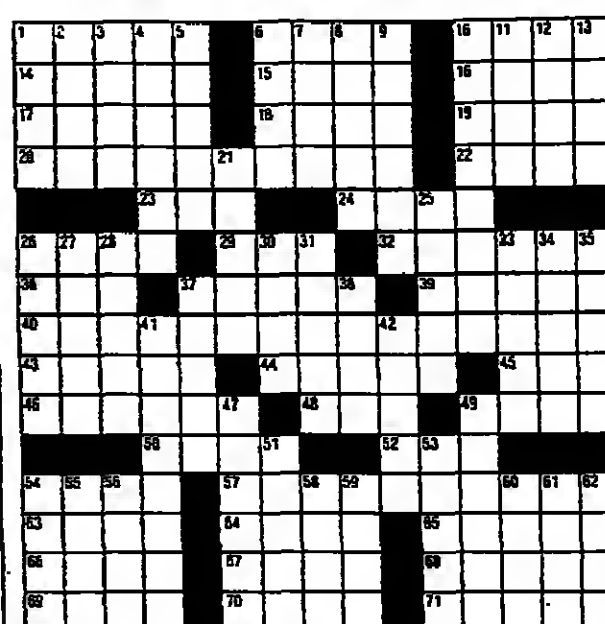
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Puccini opera, with "La"
- 6 Wire measures
- 10 School founded by Henry VI
- 14 Sacrifice site
- 15 Singer Adams
- 16 FDR's coin
- 17 Property claims
- 18 Guinness
- 19 Fixed quantity
- 20 School for an aggie
- 22 Persians
- 23 Chemical suffix
- 24 Novelist Ferber
- 26 Of a historic time
- 29 Roll of fins
- 32 Gobbles down compliments
- 36 Hammarikjold
- 37 Loblilies
- 39 Fishing net
- 40 57 Across, in a way
- 43 Otherworldly
- 44 Fictional form
- 45 Needlefish
- 48 Affectionately
- 49 Telecast fish
- 50 Franklin and namesakes
- 52 Belongings
- 52 Important article
- 54 Croche figures
- 57 Stamping ground for professors
- 63 — corner
- 64 Nebraska Indian
- 65 Lapel grabbers
- 66 Type of skirt
- 67 Medium for Valdezquez
- 68 Give the vocabulary
- 68 Code or rug
- 70 Food fish
- 71 Granada gentleman

DOWN

- 1 Body powder
- 2 Medley
- 3 Hearty dish
- 4 Undo
- 5 Pyromaniac's felony
- 6 Restaurant offering
- 7 Litter
- 8 Historic city on the Meuse
- 9 Withdraw formally
- 10 — guess
- 11 Turner or Louise
- 12 Overlook
- 13 New Jersey five
- 21 Shari or Jerry
- 25 Twangy
- 26 Barely beat, with "out"
- 27 Street show
- 28 Greek marketplace
- 30 Before long
- 31 "Robinson Crusoe" author
- 33 — Perilous (Round Table seat)
- 34 Deprive of self-confidence
- 35 Equals
- 37 "The Old Wives' Tale" author
- 38 Reliever's assignment
- 41 "Old Dominion" State
- 42 Highland Scots, e.g.
- 47 "Gulliver's Travels" creatures
- 49 Ere
- 51 Proportion
- 53 Vagabonds
- 54 "I Remember"
- 55 Moslem prince
- 56 Heckman or Wilder
- 58 Lounge about
- 59 — majesty
- 60 Mideast land
- 61 Presidential prerogative
- 62 North Sea feeder

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SPLEW OCTAVO CCG
PAR SLATER AHA
ALAE SATIRE RIM
PLATINUMBLONDE
TRA MEA PIEL
NOTHING LPS
OLMEC ADELA ASS
LEADKINDLYLIGHT
ION ESTEE ANNIE
EOD CATNIPS
OLEG TSK MAD
LONGJOHNSILVER
ERG OPINATE AVOV
ICE SERVIAL TIEE
CALL ESKERS ELEE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
GIVE THE ENEMY A HELPING HAND

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K 7 4
♥ A 8 6 5
♦ K J 10
♣ 6 5 3

WEST

♠ J 10 9 3
♥ 10 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ K Q J 10

EAST

♠ Q 8 5
♥ Q J 9 7 2
♦ 7 6 4 3
♣ 8

SOUTH

♠ A 6 2
♥ K 4
♦ A Q 9
♣ A 9 7 4 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
When you speak of a falsecard, many players look for something dramatic, such as dropping a guarded king under an ace to induce a shift. Those plays turn up infrequently, and are often missed at the table. But there is a whole gamut of deceptive maneuvers that occur frequently, and are so simple they often sneak by unnoticed.

Note North's jump to three no trump despite possession of a four-card major. With a perfectly bal-

anced hand and, hence, no ruffing value, the consensus is to forgo probing for a 4-4 major fit in favor of the value bid, although not all players agree with that approach.

This hand is from a pair tournament. Some declarers won the ace of clubs and, since they needed a second club trick to make the contract, returned the suit. When East showed out on the second round, West shifted to the jack of spades and the defenders were a tempo ahead. They had to come to two spade tricks and three club tricks before declarer could reel in nine tricks.

Other Souths followed with the deuce of clubs to the first trick. Some Wests continued clubs to allow declarer to get home; most shifted to a spade for down one.

One small group of declarers fulfilled the contract in every case. These were those who played the seven of clubs to the first trick, concealing their two lower clubs. Each West presumed that East's eight of clubs was a come-on signal, so they never even considered a spade switch. The club continuation was taken with the ace and a club back put declarer ahead in the race to establish tricks.



YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20

Nothing will be quite as it seems to be. For that reason, too, keep your eyes and ears wide open. You would be wrong to engage in any kind of adventure involving a married party. Be less extravagant.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You must concentrate hard and not permit yourself to be distracted. And avoid trying to do two or more things at the same time. You should try hard to control a craving for sweet things. Be trustworthy.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You are far too liable to jump to conclusions. Try to maintain a better balance between reason and emotions. It will well repay you to make a few concessions. Be punctual.



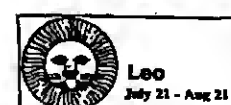
Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You should make sure you do not play with fire. Ensure you meet your obligations and try to avoid a guilty conscience. You are more liable to lose or mislay things, so watch out especially. Be sincere.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Something you have not been able to do for some time will now once again become possible. Try to avoid making noise or exposing yourself to it. Do not inhibit your emotions or allow them quite free rein. Be considerate.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

Avoid making up your mind on the spur of the moment, but nor should you avoid making up your mind at all. Mistakes are more likely so be on the lookout for them. Take the best possible care of your health. Be fair.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

You should not rely too much on others and more on your own endeavors. You would do well to question something you have assumed to be right.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

If you are going to an interview or conference make sure you are properly prepared: no need to get hushed. You should make sure you do not place too much reliance on gossip or rumour. Take better care of your appearance.



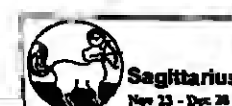
Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will be able to find a better way of dealing with an abiding problem. However, plenty enough difficulties remain and you should not try to gloss over them. Do not place too much reliance on your memory, make notes. Be sensible.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Something you had been awaiting will now arrive, but it will not come up to expectations. Your lucky numbers are 17 and 34. Take the opportunity to show your children a good example. Avoid going to extremes or exaggerating. Be objective.



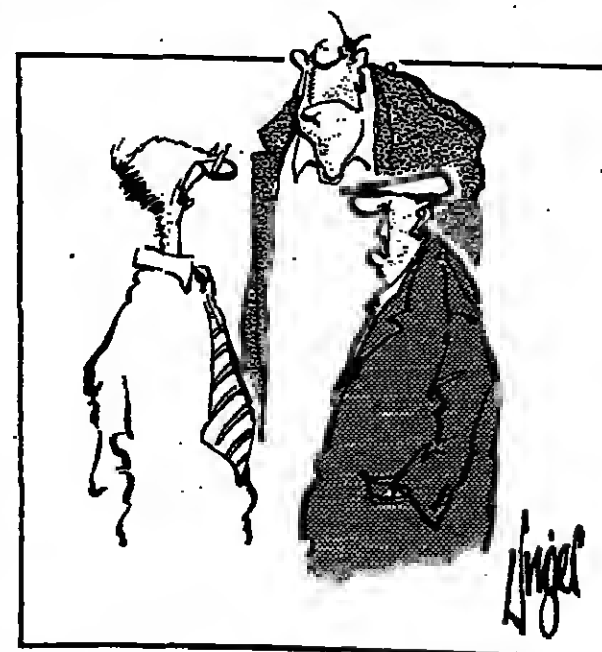
Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You would do well to drink a little more sparingly and to smoke less heavily. And if you do neither are you sure you have no other bad habits? Take a little more interest in what interests your partner. Be polite.

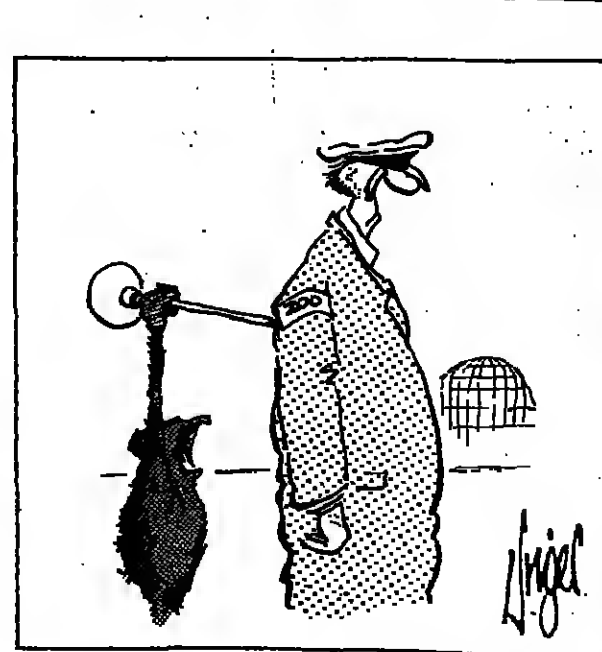


Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

Not everything will be to your liking, but do make the best of that which is. And do remember that virtually nothing is ever quite ideal. Avoid doing the first thing and that comes to mind, think about it first. Be moderate.



"This is my nephew, Eric. He wants to borrow that \$100 you still owe me."



"Don't turn around, and hand over the keys to the monkey house."

Handwritten signature: J. Shull

MARKET PLACE

32-37

AT 131433

SPORTS BRIEFS

E. German athletes

EAST BERLIN, Feb 10, (Reuters): East Germany's world-beating athletes will wear kit emblazoned with advertising slogans for the first time when they compete at a six-country indoor event in Paris.

Stadler leads

HONOLULU, Hawaii, Feb 10, (Reuters): Craig Stadler shot a five-under par 67 and moved into the lead at halfway mark of the \$1 million Hawaiian Open golf tournament with a total of six-under par 138 yesterday.

Calamati wins

ZARAGOZA, Spain, Feb 10, (Reuters): Italy's Effen Calamati retained his European light welterweight title when he defeated Carlos Solé of Spain on points today in this northern Spanish city.

French team

AGEN, France, Feb 10, (Reuters): French Rugby Union selector Jean-François Bastiat called yesterday for captain Pierre Berbizier and fullback Serge Blanco to be axed from the French side.

Belgian tourney

MILAN, Italy, Feb 10, (AP): ATP officials in Milan announced yesterday that Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany and Emilio Sanchez of Spain will substitute for Stefan Edberg and Jimmy Connors in the Belgian Indoor Championships that begins in Brussels on Monday.

Fight postponed

MARACAY, Venezuela, Feb 10, (Reuters): Venezuelan boxer Jesus "Kiki" Rojas has postponed his first World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight title defense against South Korean Lee Yul-Woo until March 10, the WBA said yesterday.

Injury jinx

CINCINNATI, Feb 10, (AP): Welterweight boxer Tommy Ayers is running into an injury jinx as he tries to mount a ring comeback from prison. Ayers strained ligaments in his left hand, forcing the cancellation of his Feb 20 fight with Glenwood Brown for the US Boxing Association welterweight championship.

Berger upset

GUARUJA, Brazil, Feb 10, (AP): Argentine Eduardo Bengoechea stunned top-seeded Jay Berger of the United States with a 7-5, 6-0 victory yesterday in the \$150,000 Chevrolet Classic tennis tournament.

Ajax defeated

AMSTERDAM, Feb 10, (Reuters): Ajax Amsterdam's recent League resurgence was halted yesterday by a 1-0 defeat at mid-table MVV Maastricht.

Colombian team

BOGOTA, Feb 10, (Reuters): Colombia's national soccer team will resume training for the World Cup, lifting a suspension imposed earlier this week after death threats from an anti-drug group seeking to "cleanse" domestic soccer, the team trainer said yesterday.

All-seater stadium

COPENHAGEN, Feb 10, (Reuters): Denmark is to get a new national soccer stadium in Copenhagen, the country's first all-seater ground, by the summer of 1992. The 46,500-seat stadium is to be built on the site of the present ground by a financial services company who will also put up three office buildings on the land to finance the 400 million crown (\$60 million) project.

Taufat triumphs

WICHITA, Kansas, Feb 10, (AP): No. 1 seed Nathalie Taufat of France advanced to the semifinal round yesterday with quarterfinal victory over Marnon Bolleggraf of the Netherlands in the \$150,000 Breyers Tennis Classic.

Czech triumphs

GSTAAD, Switzerland, Feb 10, (AP): Frantisek Jec of Czechoslovakia posted leaps of 80 and 85 meters (262 and 278 feet) yesterday to win a World Cup ski jumping meet.

Doping charges

WEST BERLIN, Feb 10, (AP): The doctor of East Germany's bobbed team yesterday denied allegations that star driver Wolfgang Hoppe and other team members regularly took anabolic steroids. Dr Wolfgang Schneider said in an interview with the West German sports news agency Sid that the allegations were "malicious accusations."

Romanian gets \$100,000 bonus

Melinte breaks record

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J., Feb 10, (Reuters): Doina Melinte of Romania lowered her world standard for an indoor mile yesterday and also improved her standard of living by collecting a \$100,000 bonus for her efforts.

Melinte, breathing down the neck of pace-setter Brit Lind-Peterson of Canada for the first

half-mile, responded to the cheers of a crowd of 12,161 by finishing in four minutes, 17.13 seconds — more than a second and a half better than the 4:18.86 mark she set here two years ago.

"I'm very, very happy," said the lanky Melinte, a two-time world indoor champion and former Olympic gold medalist after her victory at the Meadowlands

Invitational Indoor Athletics Meeting. The Romanian also was credited with breaking the 1,500-metre indoor mark with a time of 4:00.27.

Melinte, who said she was in good shape because of preparations for the European Championships, said political changes in her homeland would allow her to keep her winnings instead of just a small share.

American Alisa Harvey finished second to Melinte more than 13 seconds behind, with Soviet Svetlana Kitova taking third.

Peter Elliott of Britain came up a bit short in his pursuit of a mile record and a matching \$100,000 bonus.

The new 1,500 metres Commonwealth champion from Britain finished in 3:52.02 to win the race over Irishman Marcus O'Sullivan, who trailed far behind in 3:58.44.

Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan set the mile mark of 3:49.78 seven years ago on the fast, steeply-banked Meadowlands track.

A \$50,000 bonus for an indoor best in the 600 yards also went unclaimed in a clash-marred, four-man race won by sole survivor Butch Reynolds in 1:10.36 seconds — nearly three seconds off the 1970 mark set by Martin McGrady.

Antonio McKay and Ian Morris crashed after colliding on the first turn of the last lap and Danny Harris, the apparent winner, was later disqualified for causing McKay's fall.

The hurdles races wound up as a tale of two streaks.

Two-time Olympic champion Roger Kingdom snapped a long-standing losing streak by winning the 55-metre hurdles in a brisk 7.00 seconds over fellow-Americans Tony Dees and Arthur Blake.

Kingdom had never before won an indoor race in the New York area, coming up short in at least 12 races by his own count dating back to 1984.

"I guess I finally broke the streak. It feels great," said Kingdom, clearly pleased by his smooth start in the race. "It's like going in the Olympic Games and finally winning a big one."

Kingdom's big challenge did not come as expected from Renaldo Nehemiah and Greg Foster, who finished fifth and sixth. Dees was second in 7.05 and Blake third in 7.09.

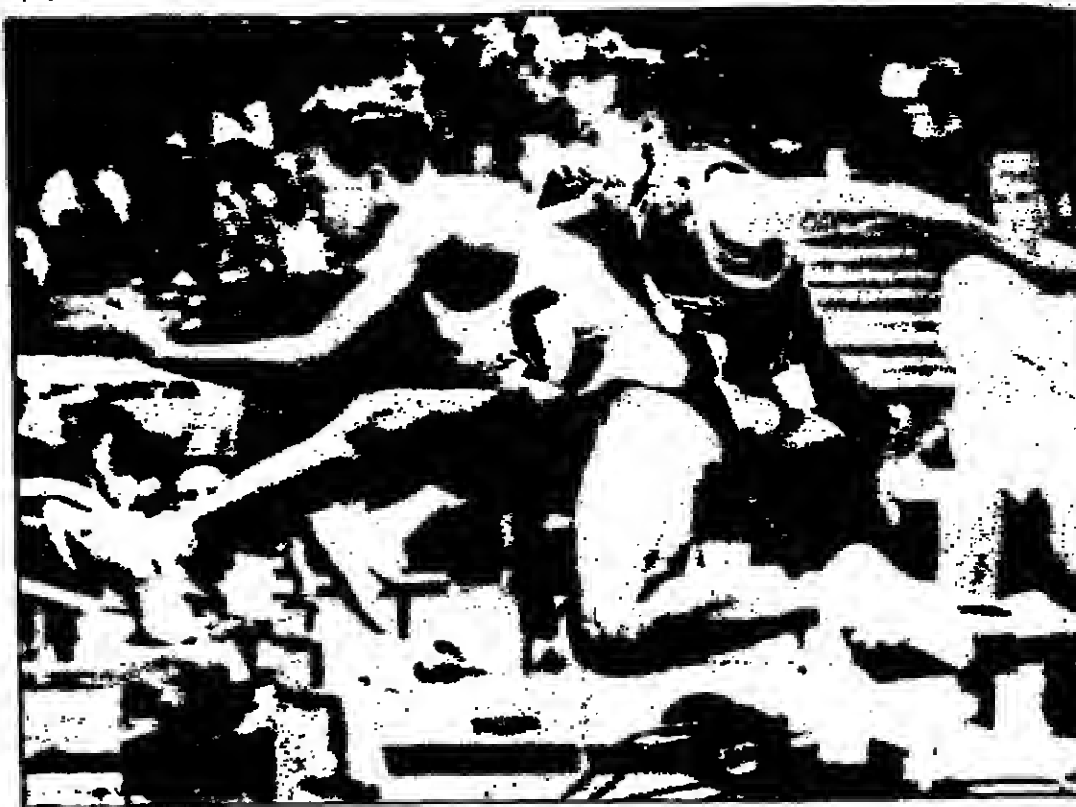
While Kingdom ended one streak, Lavonna Martin extended her own as the best double Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey in the women's 55-metre hurdles for the third straight time this indoor season.

Martin, twice a US national collegiate champion and a Panam Games gold medalist, clocked 7.45 to overtake Joyner-Kersey, who timed 7.51 along with Kim McKenzie.

"Aside from making the 1988 Olympic team, this is right up there among my career achievements," said Martin, who is hoping to peak by this summer's Goodwill Games.



Melinte crosses the finish line. (Reuters wirephoto).



Martin (near) clears the hurdle just ahead of Joyner-Kersey to win the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

Graf surgery uncertain

STUTTGART, West Germany Feb 10, (AP): Steffi Graf will have to wait until Monday to find out whether she will recover in time to resume her quest for a second Grand Slam.

The world's top-ranked woman tennis player splintered a bone in her right thumb when she fell Wednesday while skiing in the Swiss resort of St Moritz. She was examined at the Heidelberg University hospital on Thursday.

Graf said yesterday she still didn't know if surgery was needed on her broken thumb, but she expects to be out of action at least until mid-April.

A decision on surgery had been expected yesterday, but the large swelling on Graf's hand forced doctors to delay the final ruling until Monday.

Horst Cotta, a specialist in the

Heidelberg hospital who examined Graf, said that without surgery Graf could be sidelined for up to six weeks, but that she would be fit in time to start training for the French Open, according to West German television.

If Graf missed the French Open, which starts May 28, she would lose the chance of winning her second Grand Slam.

In 1983, Graf swept the four Grand Slam tournaments — Wimbledon and the Australian, French and US Opens. Last year, she was upset in the French final by Spain's Arantxa Sanchez, but won the other three titles.

Graf was in St Moritz filming a part in a movie, "Fire, Ice and Dynamite," according to Phil de Piccolotto, her agent, who also said she fell while trying to elude photographers. The movie is being produced by Willi Bogner,

a former West German skier.

The Women's International Tennis Association said in Miami that Graf had withdrawn from the Virginia Slims of Florida tournament at Boca Raton, Florida and the International Players Championships at Key Biscayne, Florida.

Graf is the fourth player in the women's top 15 to be injured during the first five weeks of the year.

Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, ranked third in the world, defaulted a match during the Australian Open because of an ankle sprain. Mary Joe Fernandez, No. 7, withdrew from the Pan Pacific Open last week with a shoulder injury, and Helen Keles of Canada, No. 15, withdrew from the Breyers Tennis Classic because of an injured thumb.

Evert beats Navratilova

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin, Feb 10, (AP): Chris Evert, who retired from tournament tennis last fall, won the final three of the second set last night and beat long-time rival and friend Martina Navratilova 6-3, 6-4 in an exhibition match at the Milwaukee arena.

Evert and Navratilova met 80 times in tournaments beginning with their first match in 1973. Last night's match kicked off a series of exhibitions with another scheduled today in Dallas.

Navratilova, who held a 43-37 advantage over Evert in the tournament meeting including a 14-8 advantage in Grand Slam events, jumped to a 2-0 first set lead. But Evert won a 15-minute third game that included six deuces and went on to win the following four games after that for a 5-2 lead.

Navratilova held for 5-3, but Evert rallied from love-30 down on her serve to win the first set when Navratilova volleyed long on set point.

Navratilova also led in the second set 4-3. But after holding her serve for 4-4, Evert broke in the ninth game and then held her serve to win the match, ending it with a volley at the net.

Navratilova, preparing for a tournament in Chicago next week, was coming off a seven-week layoff.

The match was spiced with comic relief and banter between the players, but there was also serious tennis with Evert pounding her trade ground strokes from the baseline and Navratilova coming to net when she had the opportunity.

ATP rules out compensation

BRUSSELS, Feb 10, (Reuters): The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) said yesterday it would not pay compensation to the organizers of next week's Brussels tournament even though only one of the world's top 10 players will be participating.

Under its own rules, ATP guarantees every championship series tournament three top 10 players, and Brussels organizer Adrie Vanden Ende said on Thursday ATP would pay \$125,000 if it could not provide at least two top 10 players.

The only top 10 player likely to be present in Brussels is Boris Becker after Swede Stefan Edberg dropped out through injury and American Andre Agassi, eight in the world, declined a big sum of money to play.

Vanden Ende said on Thursday.

Tadena gets PBAK job

By Sonny Mariano

THE Philippine Bowling Association in Kuwait (PBAK) recently held its annual elections of officers for the year 1990 and the new executive board is now headed by Jimmy Tadena after he was elected as the new PBAK president.

The other members of the executive board are as follows: executive VP-Rene Cabardo; senior VP-Bede Borge; records-Burt Ramon; treasurer-Bertie Guimaraes; auditor-Rudy Zablan; asst. auditor-Milo Coronado; budget-Ryan Abdon; asst. budget-Joe Bilog; social affairs-Babes Penaloza; membership-Injo Medrano and Bide Guimaraes; press relation-Sonny Mariano; peace and order-Tony Lason and Flor Tongson.

The new directors are as follows: Cecil Contreras, Calny Abesamis, Ernie Landrito, Jesus Ventus, Mars Balisi, Kamal Atta, Saad Al Khezi, Anukul Sae Tang, Mohammed Seraj, Danny Nabong and Pete Valiano, who also was elected as the presiding officer of the board of directors.

All the newly elected officers will officially assume their respective task after the induction ceremonies which will be held at the Ramada Al Salam hotel on February 16. For tickets and reservation please contact any of the elected officers mentioned above.

And for its first undertaking PBAK '90 will be holding a doubles tournament at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes in conjunction with the National Day of Kuwait. Playing days will be on Feb 22 to 25 further details regarding the format, rules and regulation of the tournament will be posted at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes.

Evergreen triumph

EVERGREEN registered two wins in GCL Division 'A' League matches at the EPI ground on Friday.

In the morning, Prince Chul was brushed aside by 127 runs and in the afternoon Falcoo Club managed to gather just half of the squad thus giving walk-over.

In the morning Evergreen captain Asad Baig won the toss and elected to bat through Shahid Maqbool and Suhail Asad. Although wickets kept falling at regular intervals, Evergreen reached 209 for seven in 27 overs.

Qayyum Majed played the leading role by cracking disciplined 68 runs including a sixer and four boundaries.

Shahzad 42 (three boundaries) and Suhail Asad 33 (four fours) were other batsmen to strike.

Waqar Zaidi put up quick 24 before running himself out. For Prince, Naseem and Asad batted two wickets each with Shaifque and Aslam picked a wicket apiece.

Prince required 7.77 per over but Baber Chaudhry in his new role of

opening bowler removed Shahid and then Ishfaq was despatched by Arshed Pindival. Asad Baig realising the weather may get worst any time went for quick wickets and made timely changes. When he introduced himself, Asad bowled Naseem and his name-sake Asad on consecutive balls and he was once again on hat-trick as he accounted for his counterpart Shaifque and Aslam on two balls.

Although Asad again could not get his hat-trick, he had his fifth scalp by shattering the stumps of Khalid. In between youngster Fawaz had two wickets in an over costing just five runs. Asad Baig returned figures of five for 23 runs.

Prince were all-out in 16 overs for 82 runs and ironically three brothers Ishfaq (29), Shahbaz (17) and Ishfaq (14) were the only batsmen to reach the double figures. Next Friday Evergreen face Lanka Colts in the afternoon. In their next round of the League.



Asad Baig



Qayyum Majed

Agassi sails through

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 10, (Reuters): Second-seed Andre Agassi advanced to the semifinals with a straight-sets victory over fellow-American Paul Annacone 6-4 6-2 in the \$225,000 San Francisco Men's Tennis Championships yesterday.

Agassi was to face fifth-seeded American Jim Grabb in today's semifinals. Grabb upset fourth-seeded South African, Christo van Rensburg 4-6 6-2 7-6 in an earlier quarterfinal.

Agassi's baseline game and passing shots were too strong for the net-rushing Annacone whose chip-and-charge tactics made him an easy target at the net. The flamboyant Agassi, ranked eighth in the world, needed a single break in the fifth game to seize the advantage in the first set, eventually winning it 6-2 when Annacone, seeded eight, netted a forehand.

Annacone double-faulted to drop serve and trail 2-1 in the second set, then was broken again by an Agassi passing shot as the second seed took a 4-1 lead. Annacone had chances to break Agassi at 5-2 by charging to net on every return, forcing errors from the Agassi passing shots. But two opportunities went by as Agassi held on for the match, winning 6-2 with a backhand pass down the line.

"He started off serving big and I started returning well and it was sort of a snowball effect that rolled my way," Agassi said.

"I gave myself a few chances," Annacone said. "But the top guys always play much better when they're ahead."

Van Rensburg and Grabb, both serve and volleyers, fought through three close sets in a contest to dominate the net. In the end, a few key returns by Grabb gave the American the edge and he won the match in the tiebreaker on his second match point, 8-6 with a forehand pass return down the line.

The seedless top half of the draw will feature Americans, Todd Witsken and Joey Rive in the other semifinal. Witsken upset seventh-seeded American Richey Reneberg 7-6 6-4 while Rive beat unseeded another American, Jimmy Arias, 2-6 6-4 6-2.



Agassi: had an easy match

Lendl blasts Courier for semifinals

World No. 1 to play in Prague



McEnroe in action against Jelen. (Reuters wirephoto)

MILAN, Italy, Feb 10, (Reuters): Top seed Ivan Lendl breezed past Jim Courier 6-2 6-4 to reach the semifinals of the ATP Grand Prix tennis tournament yesterday.

Lendl looked sluggish at the start and dropped the first two games to the hard-hitting American. But the Czechoslovak world number nine then reeled off six straight games as Courier committed a flurry of unforced errors.

Courier stayed even in the second set until Lendl cracked a backhand passing shot for a service break in the seventh game.

"He hits the ball very hard. If he's on, he can be tough," Lendl said after the match.

Lendl was to face unseeded Pete Sampras in this evening's semifinals.

Sampras and fifth-seeded fellow American Tim Mayotte advanced in the last four after winning tough three-set matches.

Sampras, 18, ousted Czechoslovakia's Milan Srejber 6-7 (7-9) 6-4 6-4. Mayotte and Jakob Hlasek battled for nearly three hours before the American prevailed 7-5 6-7 (2-7) 7-5.

Mayotte cut a slicing backhand service return past Czechoslovak-born Swiss Hlasek to snare a crucial service break in the 10th game of the third set and then held serve to complete the victory.

American John McEnroe, playing in his first tournament since his default in the Australian Open, overwhelmed West German Eric Jelen 6-3 6-3.

McEnroe has beaten semifinal opponent Mayotte five times in his career and lost once.

Lendl said yesterday he would return in his native Czechoslovakia this month for the first time since 1984 and play an exhibition match against com-

patriot Miloslav Mecir in Prague.

Lendl told journalists he would play the exhibition on February 27 for the benefit of a children's foundation.

"With the recent (political) changes, it's very nice to be able to go back... it will be a pleasant experience," he said.

Lendl, world number one, said he had been asked by Czechoslovakia's Civic Forum to play the exhibition match, adding that he expected to receive a warm reception.

"All the tremendous fans who stood behind me during the hard years deserve a chance to see me live," he said.

Lendl said he expected to remain in Prague only for one day because of other exhibition commitments but planned to visit his parents, who live in Prague.

He was born in the northern town of Ostrava and took up residence in Connecticut in 1984.

Lendl said he would continue to seek US citizenship, which he hopes to obtain by April 1992.

"I'm married to a US citizen and plan to live in the US," he said.

Lendl said he was unlikely to play Davis Cup this year for Czechoslovakia because of other tour and exhibition commitments.

"I can't play in 1992 so I don't think it would be worth it to play for just one year," he said.

Lendl said on Thursday he would not play in the ATP tournament in Prague. "It is on clay, it's a very small tournament, and it comes at the wrong time," he said.

"If I were a few weeks before the French Open I might play it, but it comes before the US Open and I will not cross the ocean just to play there."

US press slams club owners for lockout

NEW YORK, Feb 10, (Reuters): Owners of Major League baseball clubs have won few friends in the US press or public for their decision yesterday to delay the start of spring training as a ploy to force the players to accept a pay cut.

"Well, it looks as if the underdogs who run Major League baseball will find a way to have their labour dispute even with television spewing out more money than anybody ever imagined," George Vecsey wrote in the New York Times.

Mike Lupica was even more scathing in the National, the new US sports daily, in an article headline, "Players with no place to play, owners with no use for truth."

Lupica quoted New York Mets pitcher Ron Darling as saying: "Let me get this straight. The owners are about to shut down baseball when it's more prosperous than it's ever been, and that players are the ones who have to get their wings tested."

Spring training in Florida and Arizona, a multi-million-dollar business on which many local communities depend, was due to begin on February 15 but the owners resolved to delay this until the players agreed to their terms.

Baseball writers noted that the business side of the sport was booming with attendance at games rising and the CBS network agreeing to pay a mind-boggling \$1.06 billion for the television rights for four years beginning this year.

The key issue that led the owners to declare a lockout and threaten to deprive Americans of what is fondly called their national pastime was a demand for the players' union to accept a salary cap based on a share of television and gate receipts.

The owners also want a formula for paying players by their performance on a fixed scale for their first six years of service.

Undermine

These proposals would restrict the free agent system which the owners tried previously to undermine through a secret agreement not to enter bidding wars for players who become eligible to negotiate their contracts with any other club.

This policy of "collusion" was held by an arbitrator to be a violation of collective bargaining agreements and the owners were ordered to make reparations.

"The owners tried conspiracy to ruin the marketplace, and that didn't work," Lupica wrote. "Now they try this bubble-headed plan..."

Once again, as with collusion, they are clumsy and greedy and stupid when it comes to baseball.

Some members of the public questioned by newspapers expressed resentment at the high salaries of baseball players — exceeding \$3 million a year in some cases — but others said the players should retain the right in a free society to negotiate the best deal they could get.

Bill Maddeon of the New York News urged the owners to show some flexibility in the negotiations.

Los Angeles Times writer Ross Newhan predicted that the lockout would end with a climb-down by the owners.

"The bottom line is that the owners — unable to convince the players or public that they face financial jeopardy now or in the future — eventually will have to accept the status quo for another three or four years, giving a joint committee... a chance to take a hard look at revenue sharing and come up with an acceptable format," Newhan wrote.

Top three goal for Al Thani

DHAKA: Sheikh Hamad Ali Jabor Al Thani aims to fly Dubai Victory into the top three in the world's longest air race when the 1,200-mile third stage gets underway early today.

The Emirates-sponsored Cessna 310 was just over ten minutes behind its identical rival, the French aircraft Manpower, on the second stage from Bahrain to Dhaka and Sheikh Hamad is hoping to snatch third place on today's leg to Langkawi in Malaysia.

The Qatari pilot hopes to complete the non-stop flight across the Bay of Bengal in less than six and a half hours.

"Our immediate goal is to pick up those ten minutes on Manpower," he said. "We won't be refuelling on this leg so it's a straight fight between us and them. Whoever makes the best use of the winds and their machine will come out on top."

The 12 survivors in the Paris-Langkawi-Paris International Air Race have already flown more than 5,000 miles and for more than 20 hours across three time zones to reach Dhaka. But after crossing mountains and desert, today the dozen light aircraft must fly entirely over sea to reach the half-way point in Langkawi.

"The third stage is unusual because it's almost all over water," added Sheikh Hamad. "We will be touching Burma and flying on through Thailand."

"We have already beaten three turnboprop and another piston-engined plane on the way from Bahrain. We did well then and, with a little luck, can improve on this third stage."

Realistically, Dubai Victory has no chance of winning the race overall after an emergency landing on day one. But a stage win is possible for the aircraft which won the last major international air race from Paris to Peking in 1987.

Leading the piston-engined section after two legs is Falcon of Jordan. Just over three hours behind in second place is Manpower, with the Belgian entry Azurex a further 12 minutes adrift in third place.

"After just three hours sleep in Bahrain and a ten-hour flight to Dhaka, we were exhausted," said Dubai Victory's Saudi Arabian co-pilot Mohammed Al Amir.

Liverpool held to draw

Villa cut Reds' lead

LONDON, Feb 10, (AP): David Platt scored his League-leading 20th goal midway through the second half to give Aston Villa a 1-0 victory today over Sheffield Wednesday in the English Soccer League, allowing Villa to close within one point of first-place Liverpool.

Villa, who have played two fewer games than the Reds, won its sixth consecutive League game despite a superb team performance at home. Platt scored on a pass from Tony Daley in the 67th minute for the game's only goal.

Liverpool played to a scoreless tie at Norwich and had a player sent off for the first time since 1987. Defender Glenn Hysen was sent off early in the second half for his second foul on Norwich striker Robert Fleck.

Liverpool has 50 points from 26 games, while Villa has 49 points and has played 24 times. Third-place Arsenal, the defending League champion, had the weekend off and remained on 42 points from 23 games.

Tottenham stayed in fifth place with a 2-1 victory at Chelsea on a goal by Gary Lineker with two minutes remaining. It was the 19th goal of the season for Lineker, who scored three times in last week's 4-0 Spurs defeat of Norwich.

Manchester United won for the first time since November and avoided a dubious distinction. United came into the game having gone 11 League matches without a victory — a 12th winless game would have been a post-World War II record for the club.

The victory also boosted Manchester United two notches to 15th place, while dropping Millwall to 18th place in the First Division.

In other First Division games, Everton defeated last-place Charlton 2-1, Derby blanked



Glenn Hysen

visiting Queens Park Rangers 2-0. Crystal Palace scored a 3-1 victory over Southampton, and Wimbledon played to a 1-1 tie at Manchester City.

In the Second Division, the top three teams — Leeds, Sheffield United and Swindon — all won. Leeds scored a 4-3 home victory over Hull, while Sheffield United won 1-0 at home over Plymouth and Swindon won 1-0 at Barnsley.

First Division Everton's English Soccer League match was given the all-clear by police today after a large German World War Two bomb was found half a mile (800 metres) from the Goodison Park stadium.

Police had considered delaying the kick-off against Charlton to allow fans time to reach the stadium after the 2,200 pound (1,000 kg) bomb was unearthed on a main route to the ground. "This is a big bomb and it cannot just be detonated ... it

would blow up half of that part of Liverpool," an Army spokesman said. Police said 100 residents were evacuated.

Results

English Division One

Aston Villa 1 Sheffield Wed 0

Chelsea 1 Tottenham 2

Crystal P 3 Southampton 0

Derby 2 Charlton 1

Burnley 2 Brighton 1

Manchester C 1 Wimbledon 1

Millwall 1 Manchester U 2

Norwich 0 Liverpool 0

Postponed: Arsenal v Nottingham Forest, Luton v Coventry

English Division Two

Bournemouth 2 Middlesbrough 2

Barnsley 0 Swindon 1

Leeds 4 Hull 1

Leicester 1 Bradford 1

Oldham 2 Stoke 0

Oxford 2 West Bromwich 0

Port Vale 1 Watford 0

Sheffield U 1 Plymouth 0

Sunderland 0 Blackburn 0

West Ham 2 Manchester U 1

Wolves 2 Ipswich 1

English Division Three

Bolton 0 Rotherham 2

Bremford 2 Huddersfield 1

Scot City 1 Cardiff 0

Crewe 2 Blackpool 0

Doncaster 1 Bury 0

North County 0 Chester 0

Shrewsbury v Northampton postponed

Swansea 4 Fulham 0

Walsall 1 Reading 2

Wigan 0 Leyton 2

Played Friday:

Tranmere 5 Birmingham 1

English Division Four

Aldershot 0 Chesterfield 0

Barnley 1 Gillingham 2

Burnley 1 Grimsby 2

Cambridge 3 Exeter 2

Carlisle 1 Halifax 1

Colchester 1 Rochdale 2

Doncaster 1 Scarborough 1

Harlepool 1 Stockport 0

Maidshead 2 Grimsby 2

Scunthorpe 0 Peterborough 0

Wrexham 0 Hereford 0

York 0 Lincoln 0

Postponed: Torquay v Southend

Scottish Premier Division

Celtic 1 Hibernian 1

Dundee U 1 Aberdeen 1

Hearts 0 Dunfermline 2

Motherwell 1 Rangers 1

St Mirren 0 Dundee 0

Scottish Division One

Airdrie 6 Ayr 0

Alloa 1 Clyde 2

Clydebank 3 Forfar 0

Falck 1 St Johnstone 0

Marlowbank 1 Hamilton 1

Partick 0 Morton 1

Ruth 3 Albion 2

Scottish Division Two

Berwick 1 Stenhousemuir 0

Brackin 1 Cowdenbeath 3

East Fife 3 Queen's Park 2

Elgin 1 Arbroath 0

King's Park 1 Dundee 1

Queen of S 1 Dumbarton 1

Stranraer 2 Montrose 0

Standings

English and Scottish League soccer

tables after matches played today

(tablets under: played, won, drawn, lost,

goals for, against, points)

English Division One

Liverpool 26 14 8 4 30 26 50

Aston Villa 24 15 4 5 41 21 49

Armsal 23 13 3 7 28 24 42

Nottingham 24 11 6 7 37 24 39

Tottenham 25 11 6 8 38 31 38

Derby 26 11 5 9 34 31 38

Southampton 24 10 5 9 31 21 35

Sheffield Wed 24 9 8 7 46 41 35

Chelsea 25 9 8 8 40 38 35

Norwich 25 9 8 8 28 27 35

Coventry 24 10 4 10 21 31 34

Wimbledon 24 7 11 6 27 26 32

QPR 24 7 9 8 26 28 30

Crystal P 25 8 5 12 30 30 29

Manchester U 25 8 5 12 30 30 29

Sheffield U 25 7 11 7 27 39 28

Blackburn 26 6 8 12 21 36 26

Millwall 25 5 9 11 31 42 24

Luton 23 4 10 9 25 33 22

Charlton 24 3 7 14 19 36 16

English Division Two

Leeds 29 17 5 5 52 32 58

Sheffield U 29 15 10 4 44 30 55

Swindon 29 14 7 8 53 40 49

Oldham 29 12 11 6 42 34 47

Wolves 29 12 9 8 46 36 45

Sunderland 29 11 11 7 46 43 44

Newcastle 28 11 10 7 49 38 43

Blackburn 29 10 13 6 52 44 43

Port Vale 29 10 11 8 40 34 41

Ipswich 27 11 8 8 39 38 41

West Ham 28 10 8 10 41 35 38

Bournemouth 29 10 8 11 46 48 38

Oxford 28 10 7 11 38 37 37

Leicester 28 9 8 11 39 46 35

West Bromwich 29 10 11 7 47 48 34

Worthing 28 9 7 12 35 36 34

Middlesbrough 29 9 7 13 36 42 34

Portsmouth 29 7 11 11 38 44 32

Plymouth 28 8 7 13 38 42 31

Hull 29 6 12 10 34 42 30

Bradford 29 6 12 11 31 41 30

Brighton 28 8 5 15 34 43 29

Barnsley 29 7 8 14 29 51 29

Stoke 29 4 11 14 23 47 23

Scottish Premier Division

Rangers 26 16 6 4 37 14 38

Aberdeen 26 12 6 8 47 24 31

Hearts 26 12 6 8 45 31 30

Celtic 26 9 9 8 29 23 27

Motherwell 26 8 10 8 34 36 26

Dundee U 26 7 11 8 29 31 25

Dunfermline 26 6 11 11 28 36 24

Hibernian 26 7 8 11 23 32 22

St Mirren 26 6 12 22 40 22

Dundee 26 3 9 14 30 52 15



Style triumphs

The 8th annual Fortune Promoserver Horseracing Cup took place recently at the Equestrian and Horseracing Club at Sakhr, Bahrain. The race was won by Georges Style, ridden by Jaffer Marzooq and owned by Jawad Al Sayed Marzooq. Georges Style dominated the race over Rahal ridden by Adel Ghuloom and Lady Alzooq ridden by John Egan placed 2nd and 3rd respectively. Above: Marzooq (left) receives the Cup from Akram Miknas, president of the FF7 Network.

Norman wins \$105,000

PORT DOUGLAS, Australia, Feb 10, (Reuters): Australia's Greg Norman helped himself to a birthday present of \$105,000 today, beating Curtis Strange, Nick Faldo and Jumbo Ozaki on the first day of the "Super Skins" event.

Norman, celebrating his 35th birthday, rattled off eight birdies and won Skins at the eighth, 15th and 18th holes of the Mirage Country Club course, where the front nine counted for \$10,000 each and the back nine for \$15,000.

Japan's Ozaki won \$45,000 for one Skin, the first of the day on the six hole, but his efforts the rest of the day were not helped by a faulty driver. It turned out to have a crack in the shaft and he changed it for another.

Double US Open champion Strange — who took \$95,000 on the opening day last year — won \$11,250 for winning the 16th, and US Masters champion Faldo, the unluckiest of the quartet, picked up \$7,500 at the ninth.

"I feel a little peeved to say the least," said a weary Faldo, who headed straight for the practice greens. "I feel I've just shot 65 but been rewarded with an 80."

"I felt I had a lot more chances than the other guys, but that's the way it goes."

Kim retains WBA crown

SEOUL, Feb 10, (Reuters): South Korean Kim Bong-jun retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum-weight title in Songnam today when he knocked out Petchphai Chuvapana of Thailand in the fourth of 12 scheduled rounds.

Kim sent Chuvapana sprawling after one minute 15 seconds of the fourth round with a barrage of punches, mainly to the body, from which the Thai failed to recover.

Kim, making his third successful defence of the title he wrested from Colombian Agustín García last April, said afterwards he had been confident of stopping his opponent.

"Chuvapana had some very good punches ... and his timing is very good. But I still knew from the second round that the fight would go my way and that I could knock him out."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ambrose out

BRIDGETOWN, Feb 10, (Reuters): Antiguan fast bowler Curtly Ambrose has been forced to withdraw from West Indies' squad for the two one-day cricket internationals against England next week because he is suffering from haemorrhoids.

Merle triumphs

MERIBEL, France, Feb 10, (AP): Carole Merle of France captured a women's Super Giant Slalom race of the World Cup today on the future course of the 1992 Winter Olympics.

7-a-side soccer

DHOBITALAO CENTRE will organize its 1st annual one day 7-a-side soccer festival on April 28 at the Sour Ground. For further details contact Diego Fernandes, John Pires and Anthony Carvalho at the Sour Ground.

Tour protesters

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 10, (Reuters): South African police used tear-gas and batons to break up a crowd of 30 demonstrators protesting today against a rebel English cricket tour. They clashed on a side road a few hundred metres (yards) from a cricket ground where English cricketers were playing a South African side.

Weinbrecht wins

INAWASHIROMACHI, Japan, Feb 10, (AP): American Donna Weinbrecht captured the women's moguls today, extended her winning streak to six, while Edgar Grosprion of France posted his fourth victory in the men's event in the FIS World Cup freestyle ski series.

Red Stripe Cup

KINGSTON, Feb 10, (Reuters): Close of play scores on the second day of the four-day Red Stripe Cup cricket match between Jamaica and the Leeward Islands at Sabina Park yesterday: Jamaica first innings 337 (Jeff Dujon 92, Cleveland Davidson 65, Eldine Baptiste five for 99). Leeward Islands first innings 236 for eight (Livingston Harris 64 not out, Keith Arthurton 53).

Shield cricket

SYDNEY, Feb 10, (Reuters): Scores on the second day of the two four-day Sheffield Shield cricket matches today: In Melbourne: New South Wales 495 for five declared (Geoff Milliken 151) Victoria 74 for three. In Launceston: Tasmania 287 for eight declared (Greg Shipperd 132 not out, Chris Matthews three for 56) Western Australia 138 for three (Graeme Wood 50 not out).

The Highest Interest and money accessibility?

Here's the answer

WATANI

Fixed Deposit Account

It gives you more,
the more you save

With three-tiers of daily interest, yielding higher interest, the higher your savings.

Many monthly withdrawals

Giving you access to your money, with interest comparable to that of Fixed Deposit Accounts.

A choice of 6 currencies

Kuwaiti Dinars, US Dollars, Sterling Pounds, Swiss Francs, German Marks, Japanese Yen.

The Savings
Advantage of WATANI
Now available in the K.D.

ARAB TIMES

Published by:
Dar Al-Sayassah

Editor-in-Chief
Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editorial Offices:
Airport Road, Shuwaik
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat, Kuwait.

Telephone:
2222222

Telephones:
4813500 (main lines)

Advertising:
4813500

Annual Subscriptions:
Kuwait: 100 KD
Outside Kuwait: 120 KD